

June 21, 2024

RULES UPDATE

Gentlemen:

The dirt “piles” have been removed on the left side of the number 12 fairway. We now have “educated, dirt berms” and a large flat area of bare dirt. We are still going to play the areas as abnormal ground conditions or ground under repair (GUR) for the rest of this year. If your ball winds up in these areas, we are going to play it as follows:

- 1.) “Found my ball, don’t mind playing it.” Then play it as it lies.
- 2.) “Found my ball, don’t want to play it.” Keep the distance you have gained from your shot and come out to the nearest point of relief, no closer to the flagstick, clear of the GUR and start your dropping procedure there. You may now be dropping in foot deep grass or deeper so make sure that is what you want to do before picking your ball up. You may want or elect to play the ball as it lies instead of dropping in deep grass.
- 3.) “Could not find my ball in the GUR, my ball is lost.” Return to the spot where your ball first crossed into the ground under repair and start your dropping procedure there (See Rule 16.1 e).

In all three of these relief procedures, stance and swing relief is allowed, but not the line of play. There are no penalties involved, free relief. Please refer to Rule 16.1 for more information. Lines will not be painted for the GUR. The honor system will prevail and please use the input from your foursome.

The areas around the clubhouse have now been completed. There is a lot of new grass sod behind the 9th and 18th greens, and to the right of the 9th green is a mulch and tree planting area. All of this will be marked as GUR. These areas will be **mandatory relief areas**. Please find your nearest (not nicest) point of relief, not closer to the flagstick, and start your **free** relief procedure there. Or go to the nearest drop zone/ circle/area and take your **free** drop there, even if it is closer to the flagstick or a nicer place to drop.

The new clubhouse, cart paths, sidewalks and all other concrete areas are “**Out of Bounds**.” The course side of the cart path (or concrete areas) will serve as the line of demarcation for in or out of bounds. You will also find a white, dotted line on the cart path as you come off the course on both the 9th and 18th hole to designate where the course ends and the out of bounds starts. That dotted line on the 18th will continue across the cart path to the 10th hole to delineate the out of bounds in that area of the course. Procedure for ball out of bounds is found in Rule 18.2, with a penalty of one stroke.

On the right of the 16th tee there is a new flower bed and sodded area. It too is a **mandatory relief area**.

A few of my fellow competitors have asked me why I do not mark **all** of what they consider ground under repair (GUR). Quite frankly, we would run out of white paint and the course would look like it has a bad case of measles. In a **stroke play** tournament, if your ball ends up in a lie you feel should have been marked as GUR, and your fellow competitors do not agree, you have the right to **play a second ball** under Rule 20.1.

Under Rule 20.1c(1, 2, especially 3 & 4), the first thing you do is inform a member of your foursome that you are going to play a second ball. Then tell them which ball you want to count as your score for the hole. Next, take your drop, making sure your stance, swing and lie are clear of the suspected GUR. Please note that you do not get **line of play**. I also recommend taking pictures of both lies before playing both balls. The pictures might save someone from having to accompany you back out to the sight of the incident. Play both balls to the conclusion of the hole, record both scores, then report the facts to the tournament committee before turning in your scorecard. The committee will then decide which ball will count. If you did deserve the drop, that ball will count (even if the score is higher than the original). If you did not deserve the drop, the score of the original ball will count. If you dropped it incorrectly, the score of the original ball will count. If you do not follow this procedure, the score of your original ball will count.

In **match play**, Rule 20.1b(1 & 2) is for your reading assignment. Either you or your opponent **do not** have the right to play a second ball. If a situation comes down to GUR, hopefully the Rules Guy has marked it. Otherwise, I hope the two of you can come to an agreement about the suspected area of GUR.

Again, as usual, any rulings during any tournament, the final ruling will be made by the tournament committee with advice from the rules committee. If you have any rules questions during, about or outside of the tournament, please contact me. If I do not have the answer right away, I know how to find it.

May all your rulings be happy ones,

Monty Montgomery, Rules Chairman
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