

The USGA rules govern all play except as modified by the following: (If there is any question about a ruling, play two balls, finish the round and then come to the pro shop for a final ruling)

Balls Lost or Out of Bounds: Alternative to Stroke and Distance: Golfers have the option to drop the ball in the vicinity of where the ball is lost or out of bounds under a two-stroke penalty. The ball may not be closer to the hole. This rule allows for the drop to be in the fairway.

If a ball is estimated to be lost on the course or last crossed the edge of the course boundary short of the fairway the ball must be dropped laterally from this point no nearer the hole. A link to the model rule is set forth below however as a practical matter for play at Elm Ridge the rule can be simplified. The “Ball Reference point” described by the rule should rarely if ever come in to play at Elm Ridge. In its simplest form, the rule allows the player to either chose the traditional “stroke and distance” penalty for a ball that is lost or out of bounds or chose the alternative rule. To use the alternative rule the player locates the estimated location of the lost ball or the estimated point where the ball crossed the out of bounds line. The player then proceeds to the nearest edge of the fairway of the hole he is playing, no closer the hole and drops the ball in the fairway within two club lengths from the edge of the fairway. Two strokes are added to the player’s score for using this alternative, For example, if the player hits the ball out of bounds from the tee and chooses the alternative method he is hitting his forth shot after he drops the ball in the fairway.

Once the player puts a ball in play under this Local Rule:

- The original ball that was lost or out of bounds is no longer in play and must not be played.
- This is true even if the ball is found on the course before the end of the three-minute search time (see Rule 6.3b).

But the player may not use this option to take relief for the original ball when:

- That ball is known or virtually certain to have come to rest in a penalty area, or
- The player has played another ball provisionally under penalty of stroke and distance (see Rule 18.3).

A player may use this option to take relief for a provisional ball that has not been found or is known or virtually certain to be out of bounds

[Copy the following link into your browser for the complete wording of the above rule](https://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/rules-hub/rules-modernization/major-changes/golfs-new-rules-stroke-and-distance.html)

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Local Rule regarding Aeration

On the putting green, a ball that comes to rest in or on an aeration hole may be placed at the nearest spot not nearer the hole that avoids the situation.

Lift, Clean and Place (Preferred Lies):

If a golfer is hitting their current shot from a lie in the fairway of the hole they're playing, then they're able to pick up the golf ball (after first marking the original spot with a tee or other marker), clean off the golf ball, then put it back by placing it in a spot within a scorecard's length of the original position, no nearer the hole. Alternatively, a player may choose to take a preferred lie using a golf club. The player may not move the ball more than the length of 1 scorecard, no closer to the hole.

Relief in Bunkers

A player may take relief in any bunker regardless of lie.

Relief to be taken as follows:

The ball may be lifted, the area may be raked, and the ball will be replaced within 6 inches of the original spot no nearer the hole. The ball MAY NOT be cleaned.

1. Stones in bunkers are considered loose impediments and may be moved without penalty.
2. Dirt areas at end of asphalt cart paths are considered cart path. Free relief Rule 16.1
3. All Electrical Control boxes are immovable obstructions. Rule 16
4. Any stone in own fairway is immovable object and relief is allowed Rule 16
5. Any bare spot in own fairway, relief is allowed as defined in rule 16.

For 2-5 above the proper relief is: Take complete relief at point that is no closer to the hole. From that point is one club length no nearer the hole.

White 2- Over Stonewall on left is OB

White 2- Driveway behind green is out of bounds

White 3- Over Stonewall on left is OB

Blue 1 (10) – Drain on left side (Left of the cart path) Free Relief Rule 16

Blue 3 (12) – Washed out area on right of hole, inside of tree line, free relief. Rule 16

Blue 3 (12) – Drainage ditch that runs across the fairway free relief. Rule 16

Blue 3 (12) - Logs laid behind green free relief. Rule 16

Blue 5 (14)– Over Stonewall behind green is OB

Blue 6 (15) – Over Stonewall on Right is OB

Blue 8 (17) -Over Stonewall on left is OB

Red 4 – Drainage ditch free relief. Rule 16

Red 4 – Over Stonewall on left is OB

Red 5 –Over Stonewall on left is OB

Red 8 – Over Stonewall on left of green is OB

For a yellow penalty area, you may take relief by dropping into a relief area using (1) the spot at which your last stroke was made under stroke and distance (see Rule 17.1d(1)) or (2) back-on-the-line relief procedure (see Rule 17.1d(2))

For a red penalty area, you have the two options above for a yellow penalty area, plus an additional option to take lateral relief. Lateral relief allows you to drop a ball into a relief area measured from where your ball last crossed the edge of red penalty area. From that reference point, you are allowed to drop outside the penalty area and anywhere within two club-lengths of that spot, no nearer to the hole (see Rule 17.1d(3)).

White 3

Pond in front of Green is a Yellow “Regular” Penalty Area.

Pond on right is a Red “Lateral” Penalty Area.

White 5

All 3 Ponds are considered Yellow “Regular” Penalty Areas

White 9

Pond on Right is a Red “Lateral” Penalty Area

Pond on left is a Yellow “Regular” Penalty Area

Blue 1

Pond on left is considered a Yellow “Regular” Penalty Area

Pond on Right is considered a Red “Lateral” Penalty Area

Blue 5

Pond on Right is considered a Red “Lateral” Penalty Area

Red 5

Pond in front of green is considered a Yellow “Regular” Penalty Area

Red 7

Pond on right is considered a Yellow “Regular” Penalty Area

Tie-Breaker

The following method will be used for all tie breakers. An acceptable method of matching cards is to determine the winner on the basis of the best score for the last nine holes. If the tying players have the same score for the last nine, determine the winner on the basis of the last six holes, last three holes and finally the 18th hole.

Any rules questions should be presented to a member of the rules committee

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Please note that all Local Rules are subject to change.