

# LLESA Golf NG Local Rules

July 30, 2024

Unless otherwise stated, the set of local rules contained in this document apply in all LLESA Golf NG events, including monthly tournaments, summer match play, and twilight golf league.

# Lost Ball and Out of Bounds

As of 2019, USGA allows for a local rule that provides an alternative to playing a provisional ball when a ball is suspected to be lost or out of bounds. Our club has adopted this rule for all of our competitions.

In this case, the player estimates where the lost ball finished or where it crossed out of bounds, moves to the nearest spot at the edge of the fairway, no closer to the hole, and then drops within two club lengths. The penalty for this is two strokes (one penalty stroke + one drop). This is the same as if the player had re-teeed and hit their second tee shot to where the ball is dropped. See the graphic below.

## GOLF'S NEW RULES: STROKE AND DISTANCE

A new Local Rule will provide an alternative to stroke-and-distance relief for a ball that is lost outside a penalty area or out of bounds. This new Local Rule will be available beginning January 1, 2019.

### BALL OUT OF BOUNDS

2 club-lengths  
Out of bounds  
A  
B  
C

### LOST BALL

2 club-lengths  
A  
B  
C

If the Local Rule is in effect, you can still take stroke-and-distance relief, but you will now have the following additional option that comes with a penalty of two strokes:

**A DETERMINE SPOT** where your ball went out of bounds (left diagram) or is likely to be lost (right diagram).

**B FIND NEAREST FAIRWAY EDGE** no closer to the hole.

**C DROP YOUR BALL IN SHADED AREA** as defined on one side by a line from the hole through point A and on the other side by a line from the hole through point B, and not nearer the hole. The relief area is extended on both sides by two club-lengths.

This Local Rule is not intended for higher levels of play, such as professional or elite amateur level competitions.



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As an example, if the tee shot goes out of bounds, the player counts one penalty stroke and a drop, and will thus play their fourth shot after dropping (tee shot + penalty stroke + drop = three strokes).

Note that if the player chooses to play a provisional ball instead, then this stroke-and-distance option is not available for the original ball, but can be applied to the provisional ball if it also is lost or out of bounds. The player will in this case play their sixth shot after dropping (tee shot + penalty stroke + provisional shot + penalty stroke + drop = five strokes).

Also note that this rule cannot be applied if the original ball is found in bounds but is unplayable. In this case, Rule 19 for an unplayable ball is used (e.g., drop within two club lengths, drop on a line with the pin, or re-tee).

# Preferred Lies (Winter Rules)

When preferred lies (aka. 'winter rules', 'lift-clean-and-place') are in effect, our club uses the following rules.

**Balls in the fairway** (Model Local Rule [E-3](#)) You may lift, clean, and place the ball if it is in the fairway, including collars and aprons around the green. When doing so, the ball must be placed within **one club length**, no closer to the hole. The ball may **not** be lifted from the fringe and placed on the green. It may, however, be placed in the rough.

**Balls in the rough** (Model Local Rule [E-2](#)) If the ball is in the rough (but not in a penalty area), then you may lift, clean, and **re**-place the ball in the **exact same spot**, recreating the lie (e.g., replace it deep into the rough if that's where you found it).

**Balls in bunkers** If the ball is in a bunker, then you may **not** lift or clean the ball. If the ball is in standing water, then you get to take free relief **inside the bunker** by dropping at the nearest point of relief. If the whole bunker is filled with water, you get to take maximum relief, at the point with the least amount of water. You may also, under the penalty of one stroke, drop outside the bunker on a line with the pin, no closer to the hole. See Rule [16.1c](#).

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## Course Damage

In case of soggy conditions, e.g., due to rain or over watering, there may be occasional man-made course damage such as tire tracks or footprints where the ground is deformed. Such areas, when not marked, are to be treated as ground under repair, for which the player receives free relief (drop at nearest point of relief, no closer to the hole). See Model Local Rule [F-4](#). Note: Course damage does not include bent grass in the rough, divots, footprints in bunkers, dirt patches or ruts from natural causes, or merely soggy ground (which is covered by casual water rules).



Left: Course damage caused by tire tracks (free relief).



Right: Natural dirt patch (no relief unless marked).

## Aeration Holes

If the ball ends up in an aeration hole on the green or in the fairway, the player receives free relief. When in the fairway, drop the ball at the nearest point of relief (re-drop until the ball is not in an aeration hole). When on the green, place the ball at the nearest point of relief. See Model Local Rule [E-4](#).

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## Sprinkler Heads

Free relief is provided when a sprinkler head near the green is on a player's intended line if (1) the ball is off the green and (2) the sprinkler head is within two club lengths of both the ball and the green; see Model Local Rule [F-5](#). Free relief is also provided anywhere on the course if the sprinkler head, being an immovable obstruction, interferes with a player's stance or swing, or if it is on a player's intended line when the ball is on the green; see Rule [16.1](#).