

LOCAL RULES

San Juan Hills Women's Golf Association - Local Rules

(Board Review 1/24/19 and Approved 2/14/19)

This Local Rules document reflects clarifications to support the new 2019 USGA rules as they relate to play by the San Juan Hills Women's Golf Group and the decision to adopt Model Local Rule E-5 allowing an alternative to stroke-and-distance relief for a ball that is lost or out of bounds. (See Point #7 below)

DEFINITION CHANGES PER 2019 USGA RULES

BALL DROP

The "right way" to perform a ball drop is:

- Player must drop ball
- Ball must drop straight down from Knee Height without touching Player or Equipment
- Ball must be dropped in Relief Area now from knee height.

Penalty Areas - previously Water Hazards

Relief & Dropping Zones

*"A dropping zone is a special form of relief area that may be adopted by the Committee".
(Model Local Rule 8 E-4) Primarily referring to Hole #1*

LOCAL RELIEF RULES

1) Relief due to Aeration Hole (Model Local Rule 8E-1)

"If a player's ball lies in or touches an aeration hole":

(a) Ball in General Area. The player may take relief under **Rule 16.1b**. If the ball comes to rest in another aeration hole the player may take relief again under this Local Rule.

(b) Ball on Putting Green. The player may take relief under **Rule 16.1d**.

But interference does not exist if the aeration hole only interferes with the player's stance or, on the *putting green*, on the player's *line of play*.

Penalty for Playing Ball from a Wrong Place in Breach of local rule: General Penalty under Rule 14.7a.

2) RELIEF DUE TO UNUSUAL COURSE CONDITIONS – (MUD, EXTREME WETNESS, POOR CONDITIONS, ABNORMAL TEMPORARY GROUND CONDITIONS)

Relief for unusual course conditions in closely-mown areas (fairway only) may be taken, without penalty. Before lifting the ball, the player must mark the ball position, and then drop it on a spot within one club-length of and not nearer the hole than where it originally lay.

- A. Embedded Ball – Relief by Lift, Clean and Drop
- B. MUD and EXTREME WETNESS – Relief by Lift, Clean and Drop
- C. BARE GROUND - Ball resting on bare ground larger than one square foot (on Fairway only) may be lifted and dropped within one club length from the nearest point of relief, no nearer to the hole without penalty.
- D. ABNORMAL TEMPORARY GROUND CONDITIONS (i.e., crow disturbed areas) – Relief by Drop

3) RELIEF FROM DEFINED IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS:

Relief from the following defined immovable obstructions may be taken:

- A. GREENSIDE SPRINKLER HEADS -
Relief is allowed when a fixed sprinkler head intervenes between the player's ball and the hole if the sprinkler is within two club lengths of the green and the player's ball is within two club lengths of the sprinkler. The player is allowed one club length from the nearest point of relief when the sprinkler is between the ball and the hole and on the intended line of play, no penalty.
- B. CEMENT DRAINS, V-DITCHES, and FRENCH DRAINS
The ball must be lifted and dropped within one club-length of and (a) is not nearer the hole, (b) avoids intervention and (c) is not in a hazard or on a putting green.
- C. FALLEN TREES
Relief is allowed from trees and/or large branches (immovable obstructions) which have fallen on the course due to recent weather but have not been marked for removal. The ball must be lifted and dropped within one club- of and (a) is not nearer the hole, (b) avoids intervention and (c) is not in a hazard or on a putting green.
- D. STAKED TREES
Stakes supporting young trees or the wires supporting the stakes are considered Immovable Obstructions. If the stakes or wires interfere with the player's stance or swing, (not the line of flight), the player may drop the ball within one club from nearest point of relief, no nearer to the hole. No penalty. The tree itself is not an Obstruction.

4) PREFERRED LIES

The USGA does not endorse nor interpret winter rules or preferred lies. However, when adverse conditions are prevalent throughout the course "Preferred Lies" promote fair and pleasant play and often protect the course. The SJHWGA Tournament Chair shall determine whether the course conditions warrant preferred lies for each SJHWGA event.

The procedure for preferred lies shall be: Ball lying on a closely-mown area through the green (i.e., fairway) may be lifted, without penalty, and cleaned. Before lifting the ball, the player must mark its positions. Having lifted the ball, she must place it on a spot within six inches of and not

nearer the hole than where it originally lay, that is not in a Penalty area and not on a putting green. If the player fails to mark the position of the ball before lifting it or moves the ball in any other manner, such as rolling it with a club, she incurs a penalty of one stroke.

5) LOOSE IMPEDIMENTS & MOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS IN BUNKERS (The following is for clarification only; it is not a variation of USGA Rule #15)

- Twigs, Leaves & Stones in bunkers are Loose Impediments and may be removed without penalty. However, if the ball moves as a result, put it back with a 1 stroke penalty. (Rule 15)

- Artificial objects (Movable Obstructions), such as a rake, may be removed. If the ball moves as a result, put it back without penalty. (Rule 15)

6) OUT OF BOUNDS – Defined by white stakes.

7) New Model Local Rule E-5 for Lost Ball or Ball Out of Bounds (Intended for Casual Play Only)

- January 1, 2019, the USGA allowed Committees to adopt Local Rule E-5 as an alternative to Stroke and Distance for Lost Balls or a Ball Out of Bounds to increase pace of play when a provisional ball has not been played.

- For two penalty strokes, the player may estimate the spot where his/her ball is lost or went out of bounds and then find the nearest fairway edge that is not nearer the hole than the estimated spot. The player may drop a ball in the fairway within two club-lengths of that fairway edge point. Note: The player may still choose to play a provisional ball to save time, but if a provisional ball is played, the above option is no longer available to the player. Additional Note: For purposes of this Local Rule, “fairway” means any area of grass in the *general area* that is cut to fairway height or less.

8) HOLE SPECIFIC RELIEF

Hole#1 – “If a ball is in or it is known or virtually certain that a ball that has not been found is in the Penalty Area (water) on Hole #1, the player may:

- (i) proceed under Rule [17.1d](#); or
- (ii) As an additional option, drop a ball, under penalty of one stroke, in the relief area with the following exceptions:
 - During weekly games (excluding *exception list*) – player may elect to utilize the Relief Area/ Drop Zone with penalty of one stroke following the Relief Area drop requirements of *USGA Model Rule.8.*

- Hole #1 Relief Area – is located within 2 club lengths from the carved wooden bear. The drop spot should allow a free swing from immovable objects and may be closer to the hole provided it is within the 2 club lengths from the bear.
- Exception Lists: Relief Area cannot be used during these events: *President's Cup, Club Championship, Binky Valentine Eclectic and Partner Eclectic*. Players should resume play utilizing the Penalty Area relief rules.

Hole #9 or #18 –A ball entering the Penalty Area on adjacent hole #1 shall be played as a lateral hazard (red stake).

Hole #13 – A ball entering the flower bed behind green #13 (between the green and #14 tee box) is eligible for relief of one-club length nearest point of relief, no nearer to the hole.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF LOCAL RULE:

<p><u>Match play</u> - Loss of hole; <u>Stroke play</u> - Two strokes.</p>
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