

HERNDON LADIES GOLF CLUB



RULES BOOK

**USGA Rules except where noted as Local Rule
Rules summarized; for more detail, consult USGA Rules of Golf**

BASIC RULES OF PLAY

Red Stakes: Lateral Water Hazard

Yellow Stakes: Water Hazard

White Stakes: Out of Bounds

Cart Path (Immovable Obstruction): Free drop within 1 club length from the nearest point of relief no nearer the hole. You must take complete relief (i.e., both your feet and your ball must be free of the obstruction). You are entitled to relief from the obstruction, but not to a “straight shot” to the green. *See also Nearest Point of Relief.*

Casual Water: Free drop within 1 club length from the nearest point of relief, no nearer the hole. Same if condition interferes with stance or swing. You must take complete relief; i.e., both your feet (stance) and your ball must be free of the condition. *See also Nearest Point of Relief.* **In a bunker:** (1) play it as it lies or lift without penalty and drop in the hazard as near a possible to where the ball lay (not nearer the hole) so as to get maximum possible relief; or (2) with 1 stroke penalty, drop outside bunker as far back as you wish, keeping the point where ball lay in a direct line between the point of drop and the hole.

Distance Measuring Devices: HLGC Local Rule: Players may use electronic devices that measure distance. The use of devices that gauge or measure other conditions that might affect play (e.g., wind or gradient) is not permitted. Distance is a matter of permitted information exchange ~ it is not advice and can be freely shared, either orally or through the shared use of a distance measuring device.

Embedded Ball: HLGC Local Rule: Anywhere “through the green” (includes rough, but not hazards, tee boxes, or other greens), a ball embedded in its own pitch mark may be lifted without penalty, cleaned and dropped as near as possible to the spot where it lay, not nearer the hole.

Fairway Bunkers: HLGC Local Rule: Stones in fairway bunkers are deemed to be movable obstructions and may be removed without penalty. If your ball moves as a direct result of the removal, the ball is replaced without penalty.

Ground Under Repair (usually marked with white lines):
HLGC Local Rules: (1) If ground under repair is not marked, you may take free relief (1 club length of nearest point of relief) if your playing companions agree. (2) Free lift and drop within 1 club length from nearest point of relief, not nearer the hole, from small seedlings or shrubs (1 club length high or less), all flower beds and mulched areas, re-sodded areas, areas worn by cart use, and posts and ropes around greens if post is not movable.

Lateral Water Hazard—Red Stakes: A ball is within the hazard when it lies in or any part of it touches the water hazard. Stakes are deemed to be within the hazard.

- Play it as it lies, no penalty (2 stroke penalty for grounding club), or
- With a one stroke penalty:
 - Return to closest point where ball was last played (may re-tee if ball is to be played on the teeing ground), or
 - Drop a ball within 2 club lengths, no closer to the hole, to where the ball crossed the margin of the hazard, or
 - Drop a ball any distance behind the hazard, keeping the point at which the original ball last crossed the margin of the hazard directly in the line that would be drawn between the hole and the spot on which the ball is to be dropped, or
 - Drop a ball within 2 club lengths of the spot on the other side of the hazard which is at the same distance from the hole as the ball's entry point into the hazard.

Lost ball: HLGC Local Rule: If you haven't played a provisional ball, drop another ball near where the first ball was lost and add 2 strokes. If ball is found after you play the dropped ball, you must continue to play the second ball (unless your shot with the dropped ball does not advance beyond the lie of the initial ball, in which case you play the initial ball). If you are certain that your ball is lost in ground under repair or in casual water, you do not have to take a penalty stroke for the lost ball. *See also Provisional Ball.* **USGA Rule:** With a 1 stroke penalty, replay the ball from the point where the ball was last played (re-tee if ball is played from the tee).

Obstructions are anything artificial except for objects defining out of bounds such as fences, stakes or railings. Movable obstructions (such as distance markers) can be removed if they interfere with your stance or stroke. Immovable obstructions: Except in a water or lateral water hazard, you may take relief without penalty if the obstruction interferes with your stance or swing; drop your ball within 1 club length of the nearest point of relief. You must take complete relief (e.g., if you take relief from a cart path, your feet and your ball must be free of the path). You are entitled to relief from the obstruction, but you are not entitled to a "straight shot" to the green. *See also Nearest Point of Relief.*

Out of Bounds – White Stakes: **HLGC Local Rule:** If you haven't played a provisional ball, drop another ball near where the first ball went out of bounds and add 2 strokes. **USGA Rule:** If ball goes out of bounds, 1 stroke penalty and drop a ball as near as possible to the spot from where the original ball was last played (may re-tee if initial shot was teed). A ball is OB when all of it lies out of bounds. *See also Provisional Ball.*

Provisional Ball: If you think your ball may be out of bounds or lost outside a water hazard, you are encouraged to play a provisional ball. You must do so before you or your companions begin looking for your ball and you must announce that you are playing a provisional before you hit it.

If your first ball is found, play it and pick up the provisional.
If first ball is not found, 1 stroke penalty and count both strokes (total of 3 strokes). If first ball is found after you have played your next shot with the provisional ball, you must keep playing the provisional except, if your provisional ball has not advanced beyond the first ball, you pick up the provisional and play the first (found) ball.

If you assume your ball is lost within a water hazard, you are not entitled to a provisional ball. If you play a second ball from where the initial ball was hit, the second ball is in play and the first ball (if subsequently found, even if found outside the hazard) is abandoned (1 stroke penalty). If your ball has merely flown in the direction of a water hazard and disappeared but you are not sure whether it actually did land in the hazard, it is treated as an ordinary lost ball. *See Lost Ball for HLG local rule.*

Unplayable Lie: 3 choices: (1) go back to where you hit the ball and play it, counting both strokes and a 1-stroke penalty; (2) drop a ball within 2 club lengths of where the ball lay, but not nearer the hole, with 1-stroke penalty; or (3) drop a ball any distance behind where the ball lay, keeping that point directly between the hole and the spot on which the ball is to be dropped, with 1-stroke penalty. **In a bunker**, all 3 choices available; for choices (2) and (3), drop must be in bunker. The player is the sole judge of whether her ball is unplayable.

Water Hazard (lake, pond, or stream) – Yellow Stakes: If ball lies, touches or is lost in a water hazard (stakes are deemed to be within the hazard), 3 options (no closer to the hole):

- Play it as it lies, no penalty (2 stroke penalty for grounding club), or
- Return to closest point where ball was last played, 1 stroke penalty, or
- Drop a ball any distance behind the hazard, keeping the point at which the original ball last crossed the margin of

the hazard directly on the line that would be drawn between the hole and the spot on which the ball is to be dropped, 1 stroke penalty.

Other Common Rules Issues

Advice: HLGC Local Rule: During an HLGC major tournament a player cannot ask for or give advice. Advice is any counsel or suggestion that could influence a player in determining her play, her choice of a club, or the method of making a stroke (information on the Rules or on matters of public information such as yardages, or the position of hazards or the flagstick is not advice). Penalty for breach: 2 strokes.

Ball accidentally moved during address by club, cart, shoe or during practice swing: Not on tee: 1 stroke penalty; ball replaced. On tee: no penalty (ball not in play); re-tee the ball.

Ball moved by companion or her ball: No penalty; replace your ball and companion plays her ball as it lies.

Bunker or Water Hazard: In general, you may not touch the hazard with hand or club or move any loose impediments (2 stroke penalty). HLGC Local Rule: In a fairway bunker, stones may be removed without penalty.

Cleaning your Ball: Any time you are entitled to lift the ball (e.g., on the putting surface or in taking relief from an obstruction), you may clean your ball. You may not clean your ball if you have lifted your ball to prevent interference for another player's shot (2 stroke penalty for breach).

Dropping the ball: Stand erect, hold the ball at shoulder height and arm's length, and drop it. If the ball touches you or your equipment, or rolls into a hazard, onto a putting green, out of bounds, more than 2 club lengths, or nearer the hole, re-drop it. Place after 2 unsuccessful re-drops.

Exterior Fences: Exterior fences marking the course boundaries are not obstructions from which you may take free relief (*see also Unplayable Lie and Out of Bounds*).

Hitting Equipment or Competitor from Tee or on Fairway: If your ball hits your own equipment (including your parked shared cart), 1 stroke penalty and play it as it lies. If your ball hits your companion or her equipment, no penalty and ball is played as it lies.

Lift, Clean and Place: HLGC Local Rule: Under certain circumstances, HLGC may announce the opportunity for players to Lift, Clean and Place (“Winter Rules”) their balls on the fairway (Lift, Clean and Place is not available in the rough). Announced in advance of the beginning of play, and when in use you do not need to mark your ball and you may place it within 1 club length of its initial position.

Markers and Stakes: Out of Bounds and Hazard Stakes (White, Red and Yellow) are considered to be OB or totally within the hazard, respectively. **Hazard stakes** are movable obstructions and may be removed if they interfere with your stance or swing (remember to replace). **OB stakes** are not obstructions, cannot be removed, and you are not entitled to relief. **Fence posts** marking the course perimeter are out of bounds and are not obstructions (i.e., no relief). **Distance Markers** may be removed to facilitate your shot; if not movable, relief without penalty (one club length from nearest point of relief, no closer to hole).

Mulligans: Not permitted.

Nearest Point of Relief applies to situations where you are given relief without penalty and is the point where the ball would be when you have satisfied 4 things: (1) not nearer the hole; (2) you have a free swing, (3) your stance is free of whatever you are seeking relief from, and (4) your ball is free from what you are getting relief from. E.g., relief from a cart path would mean you’re not standing on the cart path and your

ball isn't on the cart path; relief from an obstruction or Ground Under Repair would mean you can swing freely and your stance and ball are free from the situation you are seeking relief from. Relief is taken from the nearest point of relief, not the obstruction, abnormal ground condition or cart path *per se*. **NOTE:** You are only entitled to relief from the obstruction, ground under repair or cart path. If a drop from the nearest point of relief puts you, for instance, behind a tree or a bush, you must make the drop and then play the ball around the tree or bush (or declare the ball unplayable and proceed under unplayable procedures).

Practice Swings ~ if you hit your ball during a practice swing: On the tee, no stroke was taken and ball may be re-teeed. On the fairway or putting surface, take 1 stroke penalty for moving the ball and ball is replaced.

Putting Green:

- If your putted ball hits another player's ball, an attended or unattended flagstick, a flagstick laying on the green, or the person attending the flagstick, 2 stroke penalty and play it as it lies. Other player's ball is replaced (even if it was knocked into the hole).
- You may remove leaves or other loose impediments without penalty. If your ball moves after a loose impediment has been touched, replace the ball without penalty.
- You may not touch the ground on your line of putt except to (1) repair a ball mark or an old hole plug, (2) lift the ball for cleaning, (3) remove a loose impediment or obstruction; (4) place the club in front of the ball in addressing it, (5) measure who is farthest away from the hole, or (6) press down a ball marker. Otherwise, touching the line of putt is a 2 stroke penalty.

- If 'chipped in' ball lies against flagstick it has not been holed. If you move or pull the flagstick out and the ball drops in, it has been holed. If the ball falls away from the flagstick, it must be replaced on the lip of the hole and putted in (count the stroke, but no penalty).
- Your stance for a putt may not be astride the ball (such that you would stroke between your legs) or with either foot touching the line of putt or an extension of that line behind the ball (2 stroke penalty) unless such a stance was taken inadvertently or to avoid standing on another player's prospective line of putt.

Rules Committee: (HLGC Local Rule) Members of the HLGC Rules Committee are considered to be "Fellow Competitors" and not "Rules Officials" when playing in the same HLGC competitions. When a player is uncertain as to a ruling during play, the player may elect to exercise USGA Rule 3-3 (Doubt as to Procedure) and play a second ball. After play, a ruling must be made in the clubhouse **before signing the scorecard** by consulting with our local Herndon Pros (Steve Clary and/or Julie Whitehead). Every member is responsible for knowing and abiding by the Rules of Golf. Failure to follow the Rules of Golf may result in penalties in accordance with the Rules of Golf.

Teeing Ground: Ball must be played between the markers and no more than 2 club lengths behind the markers, never in front of them. Violation: first stroke is cancelled; 2 stroke penalty and re-tee the ball. If ball falls off tee before you've taken your forward swing, re-tee it without penalty. If you swing and miss the ball, that's a 'whiff' and counts as 1 stroke (if ball is still on tee, take next stroke from the tee). If ball is 'topped' and falls off the tee, stroke counts and play next stroke where the ball lies.

Stakes: Red or yellow stakes marking the margins of water hazards are movable obstructions and may be removed to eliminate interference with your stance or stroke. White stakes

marking out of bounds are NOT obstructions and can not be removed (nor are you entitled to relief).

Wrong Ball: If you hit a wrong ball, take a 2 stroke penalty and play out the correct ball before playing from the next tee. Do not count strokes made with a wrong ball.

Wrong Green: If your ball lands on the wrong green, drop the ball off the green within 1 club length no nearer the hole (ball may be cleaned). No penalty.

HOLE-BY-HOLE GUIDE

Back Nine

Hole #10: Drainage ditch and rocky area near and under bridge on left is a lateral water hazard; bridge is an obstruction within the hazard ~ no relief, but you can ground your club.

Hole #11: Ditch from right to left and in front of tee is a water hazard. Water behind green plays as a lateral water hazard.

Hole #13: OB as marked (includes left fence and fence behind green). Ditch is a water hazard.

Hole #14: OB fence left of cart path. Pond is a lateral water hazard.

Hole #15: Ditches right and left of fairway are water hazards. Tree farm and maintenance area left of mounds are Ground Under Repair.

Hole #16: OB fence on right.

Hole #17: Fence line, building and wooded area on right are OB. Drainage ditch right of cart path by fairway bunker is a lateral water hazard. Ditch on left is a lateral water hazard. Screen on right and white stakes along right side of path are OB (no free relief from screen).

Hole #18: Ditch/pond in front of tee are water hazards. Pond beyond creek is a lateral water hazard. Driving range is OB.

HOLE-BY-HOLE GUIDE

Front Nine

Hole #1: Fence (left) and driving range (right) are OB.

Hole #2: Woods (left) and driving range (right) are OB. Ditches in front of tee and behind green are water hazards. Ditches left of cart path and front-right of green are lateral water hazards.

Hole #3: Ditch left of tee, pond (right), and pond extending into fairway are lateral water hazards.

Hole #4: Ditch in front of tee box is water hazard. Spring house on right is obstruction.

Hole #6: OB left fence or as marked extends along left side. Area behind green is a lateral water hazard.

Hole #7: OB left, includes fenced or wooded area left and past green.

Hole #8: OB fence and as marked (boundary fence on left ends before corner; creek/wooded area around the corner and along the left side). Ditch on right of fairway is a lateral water hazard. “Bell ringing” structure and maintenance building back of green are obstructions.

Hole #9: OB along left side. Ditch in front of tee is a water hazard.