



Dear Member,

Over the coming months our Green keeping Staff will be performing some major maintenance and upgrade works of the golf course. The following note explains your relief options should your ball come to rest within any of these areas.

Ground under Repair (GUR)

Where practicable any area declared Ground under Repair will be identified by a white line. In these situations all ground inside the edge of the defined area, including the line itself, is GUR. Our local rules have declared any such area as a No Play Zone and complete relief must be taken. The purpose of determining the nearest point of complete relief is to find a reference point that is as close as possible to where the ball has come to rest AND the GUR no longer interferes with the players lie, stance or area of intended swing. Remember, the player is allowed one club length from this reference point in any direction which is no nearer the hole. The ball may be cleaned when lifted and must be dropped (from knee height) to return it into play. Also when dropped the ball must first strike and come to rest within this one club relief area. Please note that in determining the nearest point of complete relief, the player is not guaranteed a good or playable lie.

This potentially unfair situation could arise in the GUR on the 17th and 18th tees. To maintain some element of equity several Dropping Zones have been created. If your ball does come to rest in any of these two specific GUR areas, you have the choice to either take nearest point of complete relief OR elect to play from a Dropping Zone.

However, not all GUR has to be marked with white lines. The Rules of Golf state that any hole or unfinished disturbance to the ground by our Green Keepers is GUR (except aeration holes), whether marked with a white line or not and any material piled for removal by Green Keeping staff is also GUR.

We have recently installed new irrigation pipes which run from the 4th tee, over the 6th fairway and back towards the 9th tee. These areas are NOT marked with a white line but have been deemed as GUR. The material piled on the 12th hole which will be used to extend the tee falls into the category as GUR. Similarly, other planned maintenance works over the course which results in holes or piled material is automatically GUR. If these conditions interfere with your lie, stance or area of intended swing you are entitled to take the nearest point of complete relief.

Additionally, the Committee has introduced two new permanent local rules to assist with equity on the course. These new local rules are displayed on the notice boards and are contained on the clubs website. However, to aid in their understanding an explanation is contained below:-



Relief from Seam of Cut Turf

In The General Area, seams of cut turf (not the turf itself) are deemed to be ground under repair. However, interference by a seam with the player's stance is deemed not to be, of itself, interference under rule 16.1b. If the ball lies in or touches the seam or the seam interferes with the area of intended swing, relief is available under Rule 16.1b. All seams within the cut turf area are considered the same seam.

This local rule has been adopted to allow free relief from places where the grass turfs have not properly knitted together and have left a seam or crack. Relief is only available if your ball comes to rest within one of these seams OR the seam interferes with your area of intended swing. Relief is not available if the seam only interferes with the players' stance. Please be aware that this rule does not include the revetted face of bunkers but does apply to the final top turf on the bunkers edge. In taking relief under this local rule your reference point is a point as close as possible to where your ball has come to rest but avoids the condition and then you are allowed one club length in any direction no nearer the hole. When lifted the ball may be cleaned but MUST be dropped (from knee height) to return it into play.

Relief from Dog Dung

At the player's option, dog dung that interferes with the players lie, stance or area of intended swing, may be treated as either:

- *A loose impediment that may be removed under Rule 15.1, or*
- *Ground under repair from which relief is allowed under Rule 16.1.*

Due to the increase in irresponsible dog walkers on the golf course, this local rule has been introduced. In taking relief under this local rule your reference point is the closest point that provides complete relief from the condition and then you are allowed one club length in any direction no nearer the hole. When lifted the ball may be cleaned but MUST be dropped (from knee height) to return it into play. Please note this local rule applies to dog dung only and is not intended for generic animal dung.

Penalty for Breach of these Local Rules is the General Penalty under Rule 14.7a, for playing from a wrong place.

Happy Golfing

Colin Ramsay
Rules Convener
4th March 2019