



TEMPORARY LOCAL RULES – (REVISED) – (Effective 29th March 2021)

SECTION A (COVID SAFETY MEASURES)

1. PREFERRED LIES IN BUNKERS WHEN NO RAKES PROVIDED

When a player's ball lies in a bunker, the player may take free relief once by placing the original ball in the relief area.

The relief area is a spot within 6 inches of where the ball originally came to rest, must be in the bunker, and must not be nearer the hole.

The ball may not be cleaned, and the area cannot be smoothed before placing.

EXPLANATION

- All rakes have been removed from bunkers
- This Covid-19 safety measure allows players to take free relief when in a bunker, whether or not the ball is lying in a raked or unraked area of sand.
- You should continue to use your shoes and clubs to smooth the sand after playing from a bunker.

2. BALL DEEMED TO BE HOLED

The ball is considered to be holed if any part of the ball is below the surface of the putting green, even if not lodged against the flagstick.

EXPLANATION

- The depth of all holes has been temporarily modified to allow players to remove the ball without touching or removing the flagstick.
- A ball that falls into the hole and then jumps out again due to the shallow depth of the hole is NOT considered to be holed.
- The centring of the flagstick in a safe manner – such as by using a putter – is **allowed** while another player putts. This may be desirable in windy conditions, for example, when the flagstick is required to be left in the hole and is leaning towards the player making the stroke.

3. CERTAIN STAKES DEEMED AS IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS

All red and yellow penalty area stakes, direction marker stakes and distance marker stakes on the course may be treated as *immovable obstructions*, from which free relief is allowed under Golf Rule 16.1.

The *relief area* is within one club length of the nearest point of relief, not nearer the hole.

EXPLANATION

- These stakes are normally defined as *movable obstructions* and may normally be moved without penalty.
- However, this temporary local rule permits all of these stakes to be treated as *immovable obstructions* and, therefore, negates the need to remove them when they interfere with a player's area of intended stance or intended swing, or the stake is on or close to a player's line of play.
- Under this local rule, free relief is allowed under Golf Rule 16. 1 - drop the ball within one club length of the nearest point of relief not nearer the hole.
- NOTE: This local rule does not apply to **out-of-bounds marker stakes** which are deemed boundary objects. Boundary objects may not be moved, nor free relief given. Instead, penalty relief under Golf Rule 19.2 must be taken – drop the ball within 2 club lengths of the original spot ball not nearer the hole.





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SECTION B (ADVERSE CONDITIONS)

4. PREFERRED LIES

When a player's ball lies in a part of the *General Area* cut to fairway height or less, the player may take free relief once by placing the original ball or another ball in and playing it from the relief area. The relief area is within 6 inches from the spot of the original ball and must not be nearer the hole.

The ball may be cleaned before being replaced.

EXPLANATION

- Commonly referred to as Winter Rules, the main purpose of *Preferred Lies* is to promote fair play when fairways are in an unsatisfactory condition due to lack of mowing and maintenance following adverse conditions.
- *Preferred Lies* are currently in place at Heswall for all golf, including competitions - but only if a player's ball lies on the fairway or other closely mown areas cut to fairway height or less.
- A closely mown area cut to fairway height or less includes paths cut through the rough and the fringe and apron around the green.
- As a general guide:
 - the fringe refers to any grass adjoining the green that is mowed to a height slightly higher than the grass on the green
 - the apron is the area of grass close to and in front of some putting greens where the fairway transitions into the green. The apron grass might be the same height as the fairway grass, or it might be cut slightly lower. Holes where the green and fairway are separated by water, rough or bunkers (e.g. the 7th hole) do not have an apron
- NOTE: The 'run-off' from a green between the fringe and the rough is deemed to be semi-rough and therefore is NOT considered to be cut to fairway height or less.
- This Temporary Local Rule does not apply if your ball lies in the 'rough', a penalty area or bunker.

5. LIFTING AND CLEANING A BALL LYING IN THE ROUGH

When a player's ball lies in the *General Area* of the course other than those areas cut to fairway height or less, the ball may be lifted, cleaned and replaced without penalty. The player must mark the spot before lifting the ball (under Golf Rule 14.1) and the ball must be replaced on its original spot (under Golf Rule 14.2).

EXPLANATION

- Heavy and prolonged rain this winter has meant that many parts of the course, other than those *closely mown areas cut to fairway height or less* have become very wet and muddy.
- This temporary Local Rule is designed to apply to those occasions when a player's ball is lying off the fairway in the 'rough'.
- It does not apply to a player's ball lying on the fairway, in a Penalty Area or bunker.





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6. ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITIONS

Heswall Local Rule 4b and 4c is amended as follows:

- 4b – Areas indicated by and between the blue posts, where the public may cross or walk alongside the course, may be treated as GUR. The area from which relief may be taken is extended until further notice by two club lengths either side of the blue posts.

If a player's ball lies in these areas, relief without penalty may be taken under Rule 16.1b. The relief area is within one club length of the nearest point of complete relief, not nearer the hole.

- 4c – Deep ruts caused by machinery may be treated as GUR, from which relief without penalty may be taken under Rule 16.1b

If a player's ball lies in one of these areas, relief without penalty may be taken under Rule 16.1b. The relief area is within one club length of the nearest point of complete relief, not nearer the hole

NOTE: Under 4b and 4c, relief is also available (until further notice) if a player's stance is affected.

EXPLANATION

- Due to the damage caused by heavy and prolonged rain and excessive pedestrian use this winter, the relief area has been extended either side of the marked public footpaths by two club lengths.
- This temporary Local Rule also allows free relief to be taken if a player's stance is affected under 4b and 4c.
- When taking relief from the public footpath that crosses the course, as the relief area must be not nearer the hole the ball will always need to be dropped on the tee side of the path.





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7. ADDITIONAL AREAS DESIGNATED AS ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITIONS (GUR)

Under Heswall Local Rule 4a, the following areas are designated until further notice as **Abnormal Course Conditions (GUR)**:

- (a) **Hole 1:** Within the area indicated by the white posts to the right of the fairway beyond the roadway that crosses the hole; and
- (b) **Hole 10:** Within the area indicated by the white posts to the right of the fairway, extending as far as but not including the Red Penalty Area; and
- (c) **Holes 12 and 13:** Within the area indicated by the white posts in between the fairways near to the Red Penalty Area, extending as far as but not including the Red Penalty Area;
- (d) **Holes 12, 13 and 17:** The new drainage channels and areas of the *General Area* of the course with excess soil deposits or other damage caused by the recent drainage installation; and
- (e) **Hole 14:** The area of excessive soil deposits short of the green and immediately behind the green, and the drainage works to the right of the green.

(i) If a player's ball lies in one of the areas defined above, the player may take free relief under Golf Rule 16.1b by dropping the original ball in the *appropriate relief area*.

The *appropriate relief area* is within one club length of the nearest point of complete relief, but not nearer the hole.

(ii) If a player's ball has not been found (i.e. is lost) and it is *known or virtually certain* that the ball came to rest in one of the areas defined above, the player may under Golf Rule 16.1e – instead of taking stroke and distance relief – take free relief under Golf Rule 16.1b by dropping another ball in the *appropriate relief area*.

The *appropriate relief area* is within one club length of the estimated point that the ball last crossed the edge of the GUR area, but not nearer the hole.

Once a player puts another ball into play to take relief in this way, the original ball is no longer in play and must not be played, even if subsequently found within the 3-minute search time.

EXPLANATION

- The Golf Rules allow a player to play a ball as it lies wherever it may be on the course – this includes Abnormal Course Conditions such as GUR.
- There are currently areas of our course that because of groundworks on the course (such as the extensive drainage works on Holes 12 and 13), or prolonged spells of wet weather do not offer a player a reasonable lie from which to play his/her ball. These areas have now been designated as GUR. This means a player may choose whether to play the ball as it lies or to take free relief.
- In respect of the white-staked areas of GUR on Holes 1, 10, 12 and 13, note that the nearest point of complete relief may still be within the staked area.
- Note also that these white posts do NOT indicate Out-Of-Bounds.
- It is hoped that the designation of these areas as Abnormal Course Conditions (GUR) will remove uncertainty and, in cases where a ball cannot be found in the areas designated, generally speed up play.
- The condition of these areas will be kept under constant review during the coming weeks and, when appropriate, the GUR designation will be lifted.

