

TEMPORARY LOCAL RULES – WINTER 2023-24

(Updated 27.12.2023)

1. PREFERRED LIES

When a player's ball lies in a part of the *general area* cut to **fairway height or less** (fairways, aprons and green fringes only), 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 be in the *general area* and not be nearer the hole.

The ball may be cleaned before being placed.

2. LIFTING, CLEANING & REPLACING A BALL LYING IN THE ROUGH

When a player's ball lies anywhere in the *general area* of the course, including the 'rough', 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).

3. BUNKER FILLED WITH TEMPORARY WATER

When any bunker is flooded to the extent that the temporary water interferes with a player's stance or area of intended swing, such that free relief under Golf Rule 16.1c is not sufficient to allow for fair play, the bunker may be deemed as ground under repair (GUR) and **free relief** taken under Golf Rule 16.1b by dropping the ball in the *relief area*.

To determine the *relief area*, a player should:

- Identify the nearest point of complete relief outside of the bunker, (the reference point) and
- Drop the ball within **one club length** of the reference point, **not nearer the hole**

NOTE: A specific bunker may only be designated as GUR if a notice to that effect is displayed near the 1st tee or next to the bunker itself.

4. AREAS TEMPORARILY DESIGNATED AS NO PLAY ZONES (NPZ)

Under Heswall Local Rule 4g, the following areas are designated as No Play Zones (NPZ):

Under Heswall Local Rule 4g, the following areas have been designated as **No Play Zones (NPZ) (Abnormal Course Conditions)** and assume the player's ball **is found** in the NPZ...

(a) The area to the left of the approach to the 3rd green

If a ball lies in the area designated as a NPZ, free relief **MUST** be taken under Rule 16.1b, or as an additional option, the ball may be dropped within the confines of the designated dropping zone. The reference point for dropping is the point where the ball last crossed into the NPZ. The relief area is one club length, not nearer the hole, from the reference point and must be in the general area.

(b) The area to the right of the 11th green

If a ball lies in the area designated as a NPZ, free relief **MUST** be taken under Rule 16.1b, or as an additional option, the ball may be dropped within the confines of the designated dropping zone. The reference point for dropping is the point where the ball last crossed into the NPZ. The relief area is one club length, not nearer the hole, from the reference point and must be in the general area.

(c) The planted area behind the 17th green

As above - If a ball lies in the area above, free relief **MUST** be taken under Rule 16.1b or, as an additional option, the player may drop the ball in the designated dropping zone. The dropping zone is indicated by a post adjacent to the rear of the 14th green. If using this zone, the ball must be dropped within one club length of this post in any direction.

(d) Temporary putting greens when not in use (marked with white lines)

If a ball lies in one of these areas, free relief **MUST** be taken under Rule 16.1b by dropping the ball within one club length of the nearest point of complete relief, not nearer the hole.

NB Ball "not found" in a NPZ

If however, the player's ball is not found the following applies...ref Rule 16.1

If a player's ball has not been found and it is ***known or virtually certain that the ball came to rest in the NPZ (abnormal course condition)***, the player may use this free relief option instead of taking stroke & distance relief (under penalty of one stroke).

The player may take relief under Rule 16.1b,c or d using the estimated point where the ball last crossed the edge of the NPZ condition on the course, as the spot of the ball for the purposes of finding the nearest point of complete relief. Once the player puts another ball in play to take relief in this way:-

- the original ball is no longer in play and must not be played
- this is even true if it is then found on the course before the end of the 3 minute search time (see Rule 6.b)

But if it is **not known or virtually certain** that the ball came to rest in the NPZ **and the ball is lost** - the player **must take stroke and distance relief under Rule 18.2 under penalty of one stroke**

TLR5. LIFT AND PLACE IN DESIGNATED MARKED AREAS OF FAIRWAYS

When a ball comes to rest on an area of the fairway between the designated yellow posts and solid lines set at approximately 150 yards and 20 yards from the centre of the green (and because there are no qualifying competitions this Winter) the player has the option of either...

- a) lifting and replacing their ball in the **first cut of rough** from where it should be played. If choosing this option, the ball (which may also be cleaned when lifted) must be placed at the nearest point in the first cut of rough closest to its original position. As agreed last year, this can be on either side of the fairway **but no nearer the hole.**
- b) placing their ball on and playing it from an **Astroturf mat.** If choosing this option the mat must be placed as near as possible to where the ball originally lay on the fairway and the ball is then played from the mat. The ball may be cleaned when lifted from the fairway before being placed on the mat.

TLR 5 ref holes with a temporary green

Whilst the course remains under Winter Conditions and TLR 5 is in place, if a particular hole has a temporary green in play **which is within** the current yellow posts used to demarcate the 150 - 20yd protected fairway area, the following applies.

1. If your ball lies close to but off the temporary green, you may still move it to the first cut of rough (nearest side to where the ball came to rest) to play from there... or
2. You may play the ball **as it lies** from a piece of astroturf matting... or
3. You may play your shot from where it has come to rest on the fairway with any club **as long as a putting stroke is used.**

All of the above are intended to preserve and protect our fairways (the reason why TLR 5 was introduced) whilst trying to provide the fairest option for players whose good positional shots might otherwise be adversely affected.

NB This Temporary Local Rule (TLR 5) does **not** apply:

- On the Par 3 holes at any time

TLR 6 AREAS TEMPORARILY DESIGNATED AS ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITIONS (GUR)

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

- Hole 1 Within the area indicated by white posts to the right of the fairway - before and beyond the roadway that crosses the hole;
- Hole 10 Within the area indicated by white posts to the right of the fairway;

b) If a player's ball lies in the area(s) 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, not nearer the hole.

c) 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.

- 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.
- Where there are areas of the course that through normal wear and tear or that have been affected by weather (such as areas of mud) that no longer offer a player a reasonable lie from which to play his/her ball, the area can be marked as GUR. This allows a player to choose whether to play the ball as it lies or to take free relief.
- This Temporary Local Rule is designed to apply to those occasions when a player's ball either lies in, or is lost in, one of the designated areas.
- NOTE: The nearest point of complete relief under 6(b) is an area immediately outside of the areas designated in 6(a).
- 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 these areas, generally speed up play.
- The condition of the course will be kept under constant review throughout the winter period and, if necessary, additional areas of these or other holes may be designated as GUR.

Rules footnote - ref clarification for Playing from a Red Penalty area

As allowed for by Rule 17.1b a player may choose to play their shot (without penalty) from inside any area of the course designated as a Red Penalty area. However, they are not entitled to Lift, Clean & Place or Replace their ball under such circumstances (ie TLR 2 does not apply). The ball must be played **as it lies**.

**Harry Kennedy
Chair of Golf
HGC 27.12.23**