

Local Rules for Las Positas Senior Golf Club Tournaments

Effective July 26, 2023

USGA [Rules of Golf](#), Las Positas Golf Course Local Rules and the following govern play:

1. **Alternative to Stroke and Distance for Lost Ball or Ball Out of Bounds** – When a player’s ball has not been found or is *known or virtually certain* to be *out of bounds*, the player may proceed as follows rather than proceeding under *stroke and distance*.

For **two penalty strokes**, the player may take relief by *dropping* the original ball or another ball in this *relief area* (see Rule 14.3):

Two Estimated Reference Points:

a. **Ball Reference Point:** The point where the original ball is estimated to have:

- Come to rest on the course, or
- Last crossed the edge of the course boundary to go out of bounds.

b. **Fairway Reference Point:** The point of fairway of the hole being played that is nearest to the ball reference point, but is not nearer the *hole* than the ball reference point.

For purposes of this Local Rule, “fairway” means any area of grass in the *general area* that is cut to fairway height or less.

If a ball is estimated to be *lost* on the *course* or last crossed the edge of the *course* boundary short of the fairway, the fairway reference point may be a grass path or a teeing ground for the hole being played cut to fairway height or less.

Size of Relief Area Based on Reference Points: Anywhere between:

- A line from the *hole* through the ball reference point (and within two *club-lengths* to the outside of that line), and
- A line from the *hole* through the fairway reference point (and within two *club-lengths* to the fairway side of that line).

But with these limits:

Limits on Location of Relief Area:

- Must be in the *general area*, and
- Must not be nearer the *hole* than the ball reference point.

Once the player puts a ball *in play* under this Local Rule:

- The original ball that was *lost* or *out of bounds* is no longer *in play* and must not be played.

- This is true even if the ball is found on the *course* before the end of the three-minute search time (see Rule 6.3b).

But the player may not use this option to take relief for the original ball when:

- That ball is *known* or *virtually certain* to have come to rest in a *penalty area*, or
- The player has played another ball provisionally under penalty of *stroke and distance* (see Rule 18.3).

A player may use this option to take relief for a provisional ball that has not been found or is known or virtually certain to be out of bounds.

Penalty for Playing Ball from a *Wrong Place* in Breach of Local Rule: *General Penalty Under Rule 14.7a.*

2. **Aeration Holes** – 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.*

3. **Cracks in Ground** – Cracks in the ground in the *general area* are *ground under repair*. The player may take free relief under Rule 16.1b.

But interference does not exist if cracks only interfere with the player's stance.

Penalty for Playing Ball from a *Wrong Place* in Breach of Local Rule: *General Penalty Under Rule 14.7a.*

4. **Starting Time** – When allowed by the Starter, players may start their round ahead of the scheduled time without penalty (see Rule 5.3a).

5. **Unreasonable Delay** – All of our events are timed (including shotgun starts and reversed-nine starts). Markers must record the Start time (when the first stroke is made) and the Middle and Finish Times (when the *putting green* has been vacated) for each group in all tournament rounds (see Rule 5.6).

The *Committee* will assign penalty times if any of the these three times are not recorded (or fictitiously recorded) for the group.

Wet and/or Abnormal Conditions

In specific events only, some of the following Local Rules may be invoked by the *Committee*:

1. **Cleaning Ball** – When a player's ball lies in the *general area*, the ball may be lifted, cleaned and *replaced* without penalty. The player must mark the spot before lifting the ball (see Rule 14.1) and the ball must be replaced on its original spot (see Rule 14.2).
Penalty for Playing Ball from a Wrong Place in Breach of Local Rule: General Penalty Under Rule 14.7a.
2. **Preferred Lies** – When a player's ball lies in the *general area* of the hole being played and 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 this *relief area*:
 - **Reference Point**: Spot of the original ball.
 - **Size of Relief Area Measured from Reference Point**: one *club-length*, but with these limits:
 1. Must not be nearer the *hole* than the reference point, and
 2. Must be in the *general area*.

In proceeding under this Local Rule, the player must choose a spot to place the ball and use the procedures for *replacing* the ball under Rules 14.2b(2) and 14.2e.

Penalty for Playing Ball from a Wrong Place in Breach of Local Rule: General Penalty Under Rule 14.7a

3. **Accumulation of Loose Impediments** – Any ground with temporary accumulations of *loose impediments* (leaves, cut grass, etc.) in the *general area* is treated as *ground under repair* from which free relief is allowed under Rule 16.1.
4. **Extensive Damage** – Temporary damage in the *general area* (due to fallen trees, turf damage due to wild animals or vehicles, excessive water, irrigation system leaks, ongoing repair work, etc.), and including unmown areas in the immediate vicinity are considered *ground under repair* from which free relief is allowed under Rule 16.1.

Notes:

Italicised terms above are defined in the Rules of Golf Definitions section; the [Rules of Golf app](#) is a convenient way to learn them. One important term is *general area*, which is defined as:

The *area of the course* that covers all of the *course* except for the other four defined areas: (1) the *teeing area* the player must play from in starting the hole they are playing, (2) all *penalty areas*, (3) all *bunkers*, and (4) the *putting green* of the hole the player is playing. The *general area* includes: (a) all teeing locations on the *course* other than the *teeing area*, and (b) all *wrong greens*.

The remedy for *ground under repair* (Rule 16.1) requires defining a reference point which is either: (a) the *nearest point of complete relief* in the *general area*, or (b) if the player's ball has not been found, the estimated point where the ball last crossed the edge of the *abnormal course condition* on the *course* as the spot of the ball for the purposes of finding the *nearest point of complete relief*.