

STANDING RULES OF THE 2024 Challenge Cup: THE CHALLENGE CUP “HARD CARD”
2023 USGA + Rules + New Clarifications govern ALL PLAY. DISREGARD any local rules on club scorecards.

OUT OF BOUNDS:

- a) Defined by the course side edge, at ground level, of white stakes, lines and perimeter fence posts.
- b) When the course side edge of a paved road or curb defines out of bounds, a ball that is on or beyond the road or curb is out of bounds even though it may lie on another part of the golf course.
- c) If a ball is out of bounds, the player must play another stroke from where she previously played and add a penalty stroke to her score – also known as “stroke and distance”. As an additional option, the LOCAL RULE for a ball Out of Bounds (or Lost) IS in effect for Challenge Cup (see local rule E-5 below).
- d) Any private or residential ground beyond a red penalty area is out of bounds. Local Rule B-2.2 is in effect for a ball that last crosses into a RED penalty area from the residential (OB) side on the Red Penalty Area. Player may take relief on the equal and opposite edge from where the ball last crossed into the RED penalty area.

MEASURING DISTANCE: Features that measure slope/wind must be turned off.

NO FREE RELIEF:

Unless otherwise provided in local golf course conditions for the day, there is **no free relief** from the following conditions:

- a) Artificial walls, bulkheads and pilings within water hazards...these structures are “integral objects”
- b) Wrappings and wire around trees
- c) Coquina/sand/shell rock cart paths, unless otherwise noted by the Club for safety reasons (e.g., stones/gravel in the shell rock)

FREE RELIEF – Unless otherwise noted, drop the ball within ONE CLUB LENGTH of the Nearest Point of Complete Relief-no closer to the hole/not in a Penalty Area (Note: the Nearest Point of Complete Relief is not always the “Nicest Point of Relief” – the NEAREST POINT OF COMPLETE RELIEF MUST BE USED)

1. GROUND UNDER REPAIR (GUR) is defined by a white line encircling the area. Other areas of GUR, even when not marked, include:

- a) French drains (trenches filled with stones or the like)
- b) Fire ant hills (Note: No free relief if there is other interference, such as the ball is resting against a tree. Rule 16.2)
- c) Sod seams and newly sodded areas: Relief for a ball lying in a sod seam or if a sod seam interferes with your swing, NOT your stance.
- d) EDGING GROOVES NEAR PUTTING GREENS: The edging grooves around the aprons or fringes of putting greens are ground under repair. [NOTE: The grooves do NOT define the edge of a putting green.] If a player’s ball lies in or touches a groove or a groove interferes with the area of intended swing:
 - a) Ball in General Area: The player may take free relief under Rule 16.1b (drop a ball)
 - b) Ball on Putting Green: The player may take free relief under Rule 16.1d (place a ball)

2. LOOSE IMPEDIMENTS: Wood chips and mulch are loose impediments and may be moved anywhere ON or OFF the golf course. If the ball moves as a direct result of moving ANY loose impediments, there is a 1-stroke penalty and the ball must be replaced.

3. OBSTRUCTIONS:

SPRINKLER HEADS CLOSE TO/ON PUTTING GREEN: If a ball lies just off the green in the General Area and a sprinkler head within two club-lengths of the putting green/on the putting green and within two club-lengths of the ball intervenes on the line of play between the ball and the hole, the player may take relief as follows: Drop a ball in a Relief Area (see Rule 16.1) defined by a Club Length from Reference Point that identifies complete relief for the line of play. Exception: A player may NOT take free relief under this Local Rule if the player were otherwise unable to make a stroke if the sprinkler head were not there.

REQUEST FOR RULING (Rule 20.1b): If you are unsure of a rule in MATCH PLAY and want to request a ruling, YOU MUST proceed as follows:

- Tell the player that you do not think the rules allow her to: State the infraction in question; such as taking two club lengths for free relief or taking practice swings in a bunker and hitting the sand.
- BEFORE any player in the group tees off on the next hole or, if the group is on the last hole of the match, before the scorecard with the status of the match is returned to the Captain, ANNOUNCE to the group that you will be asking for a ruling about the incident.

If you learn about a rules violation several holes after it happened, and had no prior knowledge of the infraction, such as a player saying that she played a wrong ball two holes ago, then you must go through the above procedure BEFORE any player in the group tees off on the next hole or the status of the match is reported to the Captain. Report the Ruling(s) to the Rules Chairman for the Cup at the conclusion of play – BEFORE FINAL STATUS of the MATCH.

NOTE: Playing a second ball when uncertain about a ruling is NOT an option in match play. A player who plays a second ball loses (is disqualified from) the hole. Her partner is not disqualified from the hole, and may continue play, however.

ORDER of PLAY: Players may agree to play out of turn to SAVE TIME and the opponent may NOT recall the player's stroke if this agreement was made. Players and Opponents MAY NOT make a blanket agreement to play ready golf for the entire match.

NUMBER of CLUBS: Players may start the round with 14 or fewer clubs. If a player starts the round with less than 14 clubs, she may add a club at any time but may never at any time borrow a club. If a player starts the round with more than 14 clubs (or borrows a club), the team will incur a penalty upon discovery of holes played with the extra/borrowed club(s). After the excess/borrowed club(s) are discovered, the excess clubs MUST be declared out of play for the remainder of the match or the borrowing of a club must be stopped. The Penalty in Challenge Cup: the team will forfeit a point for each hole played before discovery, with a maximum forfeit of TWO Points for each offense (excess clubs/borrowed clubs). The total number of points for that match will be reduced from 18; the offending team will forfeit up to two points for the excess clubs infraction and up to two points for a borrowing clubs infraction. Failure to take excess club(s) out of play after discovery or continued borrowing of club(s) will result in the default ruling to the team as described in the Handbook. Clubs damaged or broken during the round by an outside influence may be replaced; club(s) damaged by the player/partner may be replaced. Clubs damaged in anger by player/partner may NOT be replaced. An EXCESS club taken out of play MAY NEVER be used to replace a broken or damaged club – the team will default the match.

CONCESSIONS and TYING HOLES: A side may concede the next stroke, the hole or the match at any time. The point per hole is awarded based on the concession(s). Sides may agree to tie a hole after the hole has begun and the point is split – ½ to each team (e.g., “good-good”). Sides agreeing to tie holes that have not been started or played will forfeit the point(s) associated for the hole(s) not played.

ASSISTANCE (New 2023): The clarification to Rule 10.2b(4) applies to a player who assists her partner with alignment. If a player deliberately stands behind her partner (in the “restricted area”) and the partner begins to take her stance, both player AND partner MUST back away before the stroke is made to avoid a loss of hole penalty. Another player (opponent in match play) may stand behind the player (“restricted area”) to watch/help track the flight of the ball.

AGREEMENT Rule 3.2d(4) (New 2023): Clarification 3.2d(4)/1 states that agreement requires both players to be involved in the decision. For example, a player who informs an opponent of a rules breach but will not act (assess the penalty) on that breach is NOT agreement – NO PENALTY. This example is in contrast to the player informing the opponent of a rules breach and the opponent suggests it be overlooked because she didn't know the rule and they agree – this example IS AGREEMENT and results in DISQUALIFICATION of BOTH PLAYERS.

LOCAL RULES in EFFECT

LOCAL RULE E-13 for Removing Animals (excluding those defined as loose impediments and/or dangerous situations) (New 2024): When a player's ball is near or resting against an animal (i.e. that will not move, such as a turtle), the player may remove the animal (that is not defined as a loose impediment) and do so in any way. If the player's ball moves while they are removing the animal, there is no penalty and the ball must be replaced on its original spot (which may be estimated if not known). Failure to replace the ball on its original spot and playing it will incur a General Penalty (loss of hole in match play).

LOCAL RULE E-5 for a BALL LOST or OUT of BOUNDS

Challenge Cup is adopting the local rule FOR ALL MATCHES to reduce significant pace of play issues. A player's ball that is not found (“LOST”) or is virtually certain to be Out of Bounds may take relief using the stroke & distance option or the local rule as outlined below. ALL players within the group must agree on the point where the original ball is estimated to have come to rest on the course (and is “LOST”) or last crossed the edge of the course boundary to go out of bounds to use the local rule.

Local Rule Procedure:

- **BALL REFERENCE POINT:** Estimate where the ball is “LOST” on the course or crossed the edge of the boundary to go Out of Bounds; get agreement from your partner and opponents.
- **FAIRWAY REFERENCE POINT:** Select the Reference Point in the fairway of the hole being played that is nearest to the ball but not nearer the hole than the Ball Reference Point. If the original ball is short of the fairway, the Fairway Reference Point may be a mowed path or a Teeing Complex cut to fairway height or less.
- **RELIEF AREA:** The relief area is between the Ball Reference Point (and two-club lengths to the outside of that point for a Lost Ball) and the Fairway Reference Point (and two club-lengths into the fairway from the Fairway Reference Point), no closer to the hole than the Ball Reference Point.
- The Relief Area must be in the General Area (i.e., does not include any Bunkers or Penalty Areas).
- After the ball is dropped in the Relief Area, it is in play and the player adds two penalty strokes to the score for that hole.

PLEASE NOTE: if the player played a provisional ball, or the ball may be lost in a Penalty Area (formerly “water hazard”), the local rule option may NOT be used. If the local rule option is used and a ball is dropped, the original ball may NOT be played even if it is found within the 3-minute search time.

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