

Gillingham Golf Club Local Rules V4b

The Rules of Golf 2023 edition, summarised for golfers in the Players Rules Finder in the R&A App, govern play. The following Local Rules applicable at GGC are either interpretations of, or extensions to these, and have been informed by the Model Local Rules section within RoG Committee Procedures. **UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, THE PENALTY FOR BREACH OF A LOCAL RULE SHALL BE THE GENERAL PENALTY (namely loss of hole in match-play and two strokes in stroke-play).**

- 1) For the purposes of Rule 1.3a, the Terms of Competition shall include, (a) Competition Conditions applicable to each given competition, (b) Gillingham GC's most recent General Competition Conditions statement, (c) the Club's policies on Pace of Play, Transportation, Code of Conduct and Suspension of Play (if current versions are available each are deemed to be incorporated into these local rules).

- 2) Out of Bounds (Rule 18.2). (a) Beyond the course-side edge of any boundary wall/fence/hedge (b) beyond any white line and/or row of white stakes, (such stakes are boundary objects); (i) the line of posts on the left of the 17th fairway starting from the junction of the second safety screen with the boundary fence; (ii) the practice areas on the left of the 18th and to the right of the 14th tee; (iii) the car park and Clubhouse beyond the 18th green and around to the 1st tee box. A ball coming to rest on the course on the other side of Woodlands Road is OOB.

- 3) Internal Out of Bounds. When playing the 14th hole, the area to the left of the white line marked for visibility by white posts is Out of Bounds. The posts are boundary objects during the play of the 14th. They are immovable obstructions for other holes.

- 4) Penalty area (Rule 17). The pond alongside the 18th green is a Red penalty area, the boundary of which is defined by a red line, or in its absence, the concrete edging. Relief may be taken under Rule 17.1d

- 5) Abnormal Course Conditions (Rule 16.1). (a) Players MUST take relief from Ground Under Repair areas encircled with a white line. (b) In addition, areas which are re-seeded or re-turfed; where tree stumps have been removed; grass tees when winter mats are in use; are all abnormal course conditions from which relief MUST be taken. (c) If a player's ball lies in the general area and there is interference from exposed tree roots that are in that part cut to fairway length or less, or within two club lengths of that part, the roots are ground under repair. Relief MAY be taken but is not allowed if the interference is only with the player's stance.
Method of relief is as per 16.1b in General Area, 16.1c in Bunker and 16.1d on Putting Green.

6) Aeration Holes. If a player's ball lies in or touches an aeration hole in the general area the player may take relief under Rule 16.1b or if on a putting green under rule 16.1d. Interference does not exist if the aeration hole only interferes with the player's stance or, on the putting green, the player's line of play.

7) Immovable Obstructions (Relief under Rule 16.1) (a) All paths on the course, even if not artificially surfaced, including areas worn beyond any edging materials and where any artificial surfacing material has been transferred. (b) White lined areas adjoining any immovable obstruction are part of the obstruction and not GUR. (c) Winter tees and temporary holes when not in play, course signage and furnishings, fixed sprinkler heads, hydrant covers, yardage discs and the first safety screen to the left of the 17th

In addition to the standard relief, when the ball is in the general area, the player also has the option to take relief when such immovable obstructions are close to the putting green and on the line of play as follows: -

Relief under rule 16.1b may be taken if an immovable obstruction is on the line of play, and within two club lengths of the putting green, and within two club lengths of the ball.

Exception- there is no relief under this rule if the player chooses a line of play that is clearly unreasonable.

8) Wrong Green. In addition to the standard relief procedure detailed in Rule 13.1f; "When temporary holes are in play any affected main green is a wrong green. All wrong greens are treated as including the area of fairway length cut grass within 2 club lengths from the edge of the putting surface. When a player has interference from a wrong green under Rule 13.1f, including this expanded area, the player must take free relief. [Interference does not exist when the area only interferes with the player's stance]"

9) Young Trees. Identified by being staked (whether attached or not) or plastic protected are no play zones. If a player's ball lies anywhere on the course other than in a penalty area and it lies on or touches such a tree, or such a tree interferes with the player's stance or area of intended swing, the player must take relief as directed under rule 16.1f.

10) Suspension of Play. Players must comply with Gillingham Golf Club's poor visibility and lightning policies. Three short blasts sounded on a horn signify that play is suspended and golfers must leave the course immediately

Appendix Temporary Local Rules (operational only when announced)

A1-Temporary Abnormal Ground Conditions- Leaves (Model Local Rule F-14)

When determined by the Committee: -

“During the play of the [specify hole number(s)/ areas] any ground with temporary accumulations of leaves in the general area or in a bunker is treated as ground under repair from which free relief is allowed under Rule 16.1”

Note that free relief under Rule 16.1E is then available (as an alternative to the normal stroke and distance relief) for a ball not found but known, or virtually certain, to have come to rest in an abnormal ground condition.

LOCAL RULES FOR ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS

See Guidance on the WHS Rules of Handicapping as Applied Within GB&I V2.3 Appendix H

A2-Preferred Lies. When determined by the Committee and within the allowable period defined by England Golf: -

“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, this relief area.

- Reference point- spot of original ball.
- Size of relief area measured from reference point- 6 inches, but within these limits.
- Limits on location of relief area- must not be nearer the hole than the reference point and 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 a ball under rules 14.2b(2) and 14.2e

Note- It is advisable to mark the position of the ball before lifting it, particularly if moving from the vicinity to clean it”.

A3- Mark, Lift, Clean and Replace Ball. When determined by the Committee and within the allowable period defined by England Golf: -

“When a player’s ball lies in the general area other than on areas cut to fairway height or less the ball may be lifted, cleaned and replaced without penalty. The player must mark the spot of the ball before lifting it (see rule 14.1) and the same ball must be replaced on its original spot (see rule 14.2)”

A4- Artificially Surfaced Tees will be in use when determined by the Committee and within the allowable period defined by England Golf to form altered courses for men and for women which have been allocated Course Ratings and Slope, these are designated “Blue Winter”. Whilst these are in operation, grass tees are deemed Abnormal Ground Conditions as per Local Rule 5