

Heron Lakes Women's Golf Club (HLWGC) Local Rules

Last updated February 2025

Dropping Zones

If a player's ball is in the yellow penalty area on Greenback #3, Greenback #16, Great Blue #4 or Great Blue #15, including when it is known or virtually certain to be in that penalty area, even though not found, the player has these relief options, each for one penalty stroke:

The player may take relief under [Rule 17.1-Options for Ball in Penalty Area](#), or

As an extra option, the player may drop the original ball or another ball in the dropping zone defined by white lines drawn on the ground. The dropping zone is a relief area under [Rule 14.3 Dropping Ball in Relief Area](#).

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

Provisional Ball

If a player does not know whether her ball is in the yellow penalty area of Greenback #3, Greenback #13, Greenback #16, Great Blue #4, Great Blue #15 or Great Blue #16, the player may play a provisional ball under [Rule 18.3-Provisional Ball](#), which is modified in this way:

In playing the provisional ball, the player may use:

- [Rule 17.1d\(1\)-Stroke-and-Distance Relief](#)
- [Rule 17.1d\(2\)-Back-on-the-Line Relief](#) or
- [Local Rule-Dropping Zones](#) (if Dropping Zone available for this penalty area)

Once the player has played a provisional ball under this Rule, they may not use any further options under [Rule 17.1-Options for Ball in Penalty Area](#) in relation to the original ball.

In deciding when that provisional ball becomes the player's ball in play or if it must or may be abandoned, [Rule 18.3c\(2\)-When Provisional Ball Becomes Ball in Play](#) and [Rule 18.3c\(3\)-When Provisional Ball Must Be Abandoned](#) apply except that:

- **When Original Ball Is Found In Penalty Area Within Three-Minute Search.** The player may choose either to:
 - Continue to play the original ball as it lies in the penalty area, in which case the provisional ball must not be played. All strokes with that provisional ball before it was abandoned (including strokes made and any penalty strokes solely from playing that ball) do not count, or
 - Continue to play the provisional ball in which case the original ball must not be played.
- **When Original Ball Is Not Found Within Three-Minute Search Time or Is Known or Virtually Certain to Be in Penalty Area.** The provisional ball becomes the player's ball in play.

Penalty for Breach of Local Rule: General Penalty.

Aeration Holes

If a player's ball lies in or touches an aeration hole:

- **Ball in General Area.** The player may take relief under [Rule 16.1b-Relief for Ball in General Area](#). If the ball comes to rest in another aeration hole the player may take relief again under this Local Rule.
- **Ball on Putting Green.** The player may take relief under [Rule 16.1d-Relief for Ball on Putting Green](#).

But interference does not exist if the aeration hole only interferes with the player's stance or area of intended swing 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.

Preferred Lies

(PREFERRED LIES ARE IN EFFECT, IF NECESSARY AND AS DETERMINED BY THE DAYS' PLAY CAPTAIN)

When any part of a player's ball touches 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 the original ball (the player must mark the reference point before lifting the ball).
- **Size of Relief Area Measured from Reference Point:**
 - 6 inches from the reference point.
- **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 [Rule 14.2b\(2\)-How Ball Must Be Replaced](#) and [Rule 14.2e-What to Do If Replaced Ball Does Not Stay on Original Spot](#).

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

Cleaning Ball (only to be used when Preferred Lies is in effect)

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 of the ball before lifting it ([Rule 14.1-Marking, Lifting and Cleaning Ball](#)) and the ball must be replaced on its original spot ([Rule 14.2-Replacing Ball on Spot](#)).

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

***General Area:** All areas of the course except for (1) the teeing area, (2) all penalty areas, (3) all bunkers, and (4) putting green. See Definitions.