



the home of golf®

## Additional Local Rules

**These additional local rules apply along with the local rules on the scorecard of the course you are playing.**

**They will be effective until removed from this Additional Local Rules notice or until any applicable time period has expired.**

### **Temporary Immovable Obstructions**

A temporary immovable obstruction (TIO) is a structure that is temporarily added on or next to the course, usually for a particular competition, and is fixed or not readily movable. Examples of TIOs are temporary tents, scoreboards, grandstands, television towers and toilets. TIOs include any supporting guy wires connected to them.

The outermost edge of the TIO is used in determining whether a ball is under the TIO or whether the TIO is on the player's line of sight between the ball and the hole. Lines or stakes may be used to define the edges of a TIO or to connect multiple TIOs into a single, larger TIO.

A TIO is different from an immovable obstruction and this Local Rule provides additional relief from interference by a TIO. This means that the player can choose to take relief by using either:

- The procedure for taking relief from an abnormal course condition in [Rule 16](#) as if the TIO were an immovable obstruction (this relief is also available when the ball lies in a penalty area or when the TIO is out of bounds), or
- The additional relief option available under this Local Rule.

#### **a. When Relief Is Allowed**

Relief from a TIO is normally allowed when there is physical interference or line of sight interference from the TIO.

Interference under this Local Rule means that the player has:

- Physical interference,
- Line of sight interference, or
- Both physical and line of sight interference.

(i) Physical interference exists when:

- The player's ball touches or lies in or on a TIO, or
- The TIO interferes with the player's area of intended stance or area of intended swing.

(ii) Line of sight interference exists when:

- The player's ball touches or lies in, on or under a TIO, or
- The TIO is on the player's line of sight to the hole (that is, the TIO is located on the straight line between the ball and the hole), or
- The ball is within one club-length, measured on an equidistant arc from the hole, of a spot where the TIO would be on the player's direct line of sight to the hole (this one club length wide area is commonly referred to as the "corridor").



the home of golf®

(iii) When No Relief Is Available Despite Having Interference. If the ball touches or is in or on the TIO, relief is always available.

**But** when the ball neither touches nor is in or on the TIO, there is **no** relief under this Local Rule if any of the following applies:

- From either physical interference or line of sight interference:
  - There is no relief when playing the ball as it lies would clearly be unreasonable because of something other than the TIO (such as when the player is unable to make a stroke because of where the ball lies in a bush outside the TIO), and
  - There is no relief when interference exists only because the player chooses a club, type of stance or swing or direction of play that is clearly unreasonable under the circumstances; and
- From line of sight interference:
  - There is no relief when it is clearly unreasonable for a player to play the ball far enough that the ball will reach the TIO, and
  - There is no relief when the player cannot show that there is a stroke that he or she could reasonably play that would both (a) have the TIO (including the corridor) on the line of that stroke, and (b) result in the ball finishing on a direct line to the hole.

#### **b. Relief from Interference for Ball in General Area**

If the player's ball is in the general area and there is interference by a TIO (including a TIO located out of bounds), the player may take free relief by dropping the original ball or another ball in and playing it from this relief area:

- Reference Point: The nearest point of complete relief where both physical and line of sight interference no longer exist.
- Size of Relief Area from Reference Point: The entire area within one club-length from the reference point, **but** with these limits:
- Limits on Location of Relief Area:
  - Must be in the general area,
  - Must not be nearer the hole than the reference point, and
  - There must be complete relief from both physical and line of sight interference by the TIO.

If the player has physical interference from the TIO, instead of using this relief procedure he or she may choose to take relief using the procedure for taking relief from an abnormal course condition in [Rule 16.1b](#), treating the TIO as if it were an immovable obstruction. The relief procedure under [Rule 16.1b](#) is also available when the ball lies in a penalty area or when the TIO is out of bounds. See Clause f of this Local Rule for how to take relief.

#### **c. Relief from Interference for Ball in Bunker or Penalty Area.**

If the player's ball is in a bunker or a penalty area and there is interference by a TIO (including a TIO located out of bounds), the player may take either free relief or penalty relief:

##### (i) Free Relief: Playing from Bunker or Penalty Area.

The player may take free relief as provided in Clause b, **except that** the nearest point of complete relief where interference no longer exists, and the relief area must be in that bunker or penalty area.

If there is no such point in that bunker or penalty area where interference no longer exists, the player may still take this relief as provided above by using the point of maximum available relief in the bunker or the penalty area as the reference point.



the home of golf®

(ii) Penalty Relief: Playing from Outside Bunker or Penalty Area. For **one penalty stroke**, the player may drop the original ball or another ball in and play it from this relief area:

- Reference Point: The nearest point of complete relief not nearer the hole where both physical and line of sight interference no longer exist that is outside that bunker or penalty area.
- Size of Relief Area from Reference Point: The entire area one club-length from the reference point, **but** with these limits:
- Limits on Location of Relief Area:
  - Any area of the course other than in that bunker or penalty area or on any putting green,
  - Must not be nearer the hole than the reference point, and
  - There must be complete relief from both physical and line of sight interference by the TIO.

If the player has physical interference from the TIO, instead of using this relief procedure he or she may choose to take relief using the procedure for taking relief from an abnormal course condition in Rule 16.1b, treating the TIO as if it were an immovable obstruction. The relief procedure under Rule 16.1b is also available when the ball lies in a penalty area or when the TIO is out of bounds. See Clause f of this Local Rule for how to take relief.

#### **d. Relief When Ball in TIO Not Found**

If the player's ball has not been found but is known or virtually certain to have come to rest in a TIO:

- The player may take relief under this Local Rule by using the estimated point where the ball last crossed the edge of the TIO on the course as the spot of the ball for 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 true even if it is then found on the course before the end of the three minute search time (see Rule 6.3b)

**But** if it is not known or virtually certain that the ball came to rest in the TIO, the player must play under penalty of stroke and distance (see Rule 18.2).

#### **e. Committee Authority to Modify TIO Relief Procedures**

When adopting this Local Rule, the Committee may modify the relief procedures in Clauses b and c in either or both of the following ways:

(i) Optional or Mandatory Use of Dropping Zones. The Committee may permit or require a player to use a dropping zone as the relief area for taking relief under this Local Rule. When doing so, the Committee may add the dropping zone for relief from only physical interference or only line of sight interference or it may be used for relief from both types of interference.

(ii) "Either Side" Relief Option. The Committee may permit the player the option to take relief on the other side of a TIO in addition to the relief options allowed under Clauses b and c of this

Local Rule. **But** the Committee may provide that either side relief is not allowed if the player is taking relief using the procedures in Rule 16.1.

#### **f. Player May Proceed Under Other Relief Rules**

(i) Taking Relief by Using the Procedures in Rule 16.1 or this Local Rule. If a player has physical interference from the TIO as defined in Clause a, the player may either:

- Choose to use the relief procedures in Rule 16.1 or
- Use this Local Rule.
- **But** may not take relief under one of these options and then take relief under the other.



the home of golf®

If the player chooses to use the procedure for taking relief from an abnormal course condition in [Rule 16.1](#), he or she must treat the TIO as if it is an immovable obstruction and take relief based on where the ball lies:

- In the general area using the procedures in [Rule 16.1b](#).
- In a bunker using the procedures in [Rule 16.1c](#).
- In a penalty area using the procedures in [Rule 16.1c](#) as if the ball lies in a bunker.
- On the putting green using the procedures in [Rule 16.1d](#).

(ii) [Taking Relief under Rule 17, 18 or 19](#). This Local Rule does not prevent the player from taking relief under [Rule 17](#), [18](#) or [19](#) rather than taking TIO relief under this Local Rule.

**Penalty for Playing Ball from a Wrong Place in Breach of Local Rule: General Penalty Under [Rule 14.7a](#).**

### **Aeration holes (All Courses)**

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](#).**

### **Seams of Cut Turf (All Courses)**

If a player's ball lies in or touches a seam of cut turf or a seam interferes with the player's area of intended swing:

(a) [Ball in General Area](#). The player may take relief under [Rule 16.1b](#).

(b) [Ball on Putting Green](#). The player may take relief under [Rule 16.1d](#).

**But** interference does not exist if the seam only interferes with the player's stance.

All seams within the area of cut turf are treated as the same seam in taking relief. This means that if a player has interference from any seam after dropping the ball, the player must proceed as required under [Rule 14.3c\(2\)](#) even when the ball is still within one club-length of the reference point.

**Penalty for Playing Ball from a Wrong Place in Breach of Local Rule: General Penalty Under [Rule 14.7a](#).**"

### **Ground Under Repair**

- Bunkers** – Any bunkers bounded by rope, or white lined, are ground under repair and part of the general area. Free relief is available under [Rule 16.1b](#).
- Sand slits (Eden & Strathtyrum Courses)** - Extensive drainage work has been carried out on a number of holes. In the General Area, any drainage slit is to be treated as ground under repair and [Rule 16.1](#) applies.

### **Integral Parts of the Course**

There are areas where turf, bushes or the like have been removed to create a bare sand area. These areas are not bunkers and, consequently, [Rule 12.2](#) does not apply. The ball is to be played as it lies.



the home of golf®

## **Preferred Lies**

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 the original ball.

Size of Relief Area Measured from Reference Point: [Specify size of relief area, such as one club-length, one scorecard length or 6 inches] from the reference point, but with 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.

### **a) Bunkers**

During the current crises, preferred lies have been extended to include bunkers - when a player's ball lies in a bunker, the player may prefer the lie within six inches, within the bunker and not nearer the hole. Please note that smoothing the sand before placing the ball is not allowed.

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.

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

## **Mats (all courses, when applicable)**

When a player's ball lies in a part of the general area cut to fairway height or less, the ball MUST be lifted, optionally cleaned, then placed on and played from an Astroturf mat. Only mats provided by St Andrews Links may be used.

The mat must be placed within 6 inches but not nearer the hole to where the ball originally lay. The ball should be placed anywhere along the central line of the mat but not on any edge in an attempt to "tee up" the ball. Also, a tee peg may be used to secure the mat but the ball must NOT be played from the tee peg.

If a ball when placed rolls from the mat, it must be replaced without penalty. If it still fails to remain on the mat, the mat must be moved to the nearest spot not nearer the hole where the ball, when placed on it, will remain at rest. There is no penalty should the ball move or be moved after being placed on the mat and before making a stroke, including when addressing the ball or taking a practice swing.

The only exceptions to the above are as follows:

1. A ball that comes to rest on a green surround or approach may be played without using a mat providing the player uses a putting stroke which should not take a divot from the ground.
2. A player should NOT use the Astroturf mat for teeing off on any hole.
3. A ball coming to rest on the artificially surfaced road crossing the 1st and 18th fairways and the road and path behind the 17th green from the two black and yellow posts onwards, of the Old Course, must NOT be played from a mat.