

Most Common General Rules of Golf -Updated 2021

Verified by Tim Baker

1. Out of Bounds Balls: Drop a ball near the edge of the fairway at an estimated distance that is the same as where the ball is out of bounds. Will cost you 2 penalty strokes. Or return to the original spot and count one penalty stroke.

2. Lost Ball: If you lose your ball in bounds or "in play" i.e.: shrubbery area, fairway (in plain sight) etc (not out of bounds) it is a lost ball and a 2 stroke penalty.

3. Embedded Ball: Player can take free relief outside of a penalty area. Need to inform other players before taking relief. Lift, clean and drop the ball (knee height) as closely to where the ball became embedded. A mark must also be placed before lifting the ball, just like on the green.

4. Bunkers: : If your ball is against the lip of the bunker or "unplayable" where it is located, you can move it 2 club lengths within the bunker, no closer to the pin, and take a one stroke penalty. If you decide, at any time, to take your ball out of the bunker, you can place it, as far as you want behind the bunker, on the grass and hit over the bunker and you will be taking a two stroke penalty.

5. Hazard/Penalty areas (water hazards, woods etc.):

If you hit into the Penalty/Hazard area and you saw where it went in, but still cannot locate the ball, or do not dare walk in to find it, you may drop a ball in a playable area 1 club length from the line of flight for a 1 stroke penalty. If you hit in to the Penalty/Hazard area and in fact locate your ball, you may take your ball 1 club length from the red marker and take a 1 stroke penalty.

6. Hole # 6: If it flies into the water without hitting the ground, place the ball 2 club lengths from the line of flight. If it bounces or rolls in, you may still take it out 2 club lengths no closer to the pin. The drop zone is set up for the men, as they have to hit over water.

7. Hole #14: If your ball goes into the water: Do not hit a second shot. Just continue and over the bridge to the mowed circle (at the end of the bridge) and drop there for your next shot. This will keep play moving along.

8. Hole #17: The area to the right of the 150 yard marker is a lateral hazard marked with red stakes. Either play the ball as it lies or incur a 1 stroke penalty and bring it out 2 club lengths from the red line WHERE IT WENT INTO THE HAZARD-NOT WHERE IT LANDED.

9. Ten Stroke Limit: When you get to 10 strokes during regular play, pick up. This does NOT apply in any tournaments.

10. Unplayable Lie: If you deem the ball is unplayable (next to a fence, tree etc.), drop the ball 2 club lengths from where it lies (knee level), no closer to the hole, and take a one stroke penalty. You must declare this to your group.

11. Missing the Ball: If you swing at the ball and miss it, it is counted as one stroke.

12. We ALWAYS stress “ready golf” and it is most important right now to practice this because of the “pace of play” that the Pro Shop has instituted. Ready golf, according to the rules book, in stroke play you are both allowed and encouraged to play out of turn in a safe and responsible way. Whether you are hitting from the fairway or putting on the green, if the person who is further back is not ready and you know it will take her some time to get to her ball to hit/putt it, you can and should go ahead and hit/putt your ball. The rule is that whoever is farthest back should go first but you can certainly do as stated above to move the game along. If someone putts first, it is allowable and there is no penalty and she should not be made to take the putt over. However, once she goes out of turn once, she should mark her ball and wait for her turn again. We don’t do “do overs” for anything! It is a judgement call as to who hits/putts first. It is always polite to ask or inform other members of your group that you are going out of turn. If you want to hole your putt out, just politely ask if that is okay.

13. If you are putting on the green, and you do not ask other members to mark their ball and you hit one of the balls, you will incur a one stroke penalty. The person who’s ball you hit puts her ball back where she thought it was originally. It is up to you to ask that person to mark her ball although everyone should be in the habit of automatically marking their ball as soon as they get on the green to avoid this.

14. Hitting someone else's ball. If you hit a ball other than your own, whether hitting or putting, you will incur a two stroke penalty. The process is, to play the ball out and hole it, whether you realize it right away or at the end once you've holed it, and take your two stroke penalty when you enter your score. In fact, in a tournament, you can be disqualified if you do this but I won't go into the specifics right now. Ladies, before you hit the ball you think is yours, you should check that ball to make sure it is yours. If you want to lift the ball to identify it, you must first mark the spot with your ball marker. Many balls look alike so you really need to identify and make sure the ball you are hitting is yours. Mark your ball with your initials or some other form of identification so you can readily identify your ball.

15. You must use the same ball on the hole you are playing unless it is lost. You can change balls when you get to the next hole if you wish.

16. We DO NOT give "gimmes". ALL balls must be holed. I don't care if it is right on the edge, you have to putt it into the hole! You cannot give it to yourself or to anyone else in your group. This is a Par Seeker rule!

17. Whiffs. If you, at any time, go to hit your ball and you miss it, it is counted as a stroke. Make sure you count these strokes.

18. Count ALL your strokes in regular play up to ten unless it is a tournament. It doesn't matter what your handicap is. The system will account for and adjust your score when it does the calculations.