



Fernie Golf Club

Since 1918

Member Handbook

2024 Edition

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Welcome

Welcome to the Fernie Golf Club 2024 golf season. We appreciate your desire to join our Club and look forward to making your experience at the Fernie Golf Club enjoyable. This package includes some general information about our facilities. Listed below, are the benefits you will receive as a member of the Fernie Golf Club:

- Power cart rental discount, Monday to Thursday.
- Rental pull carts are available at no charge.
- 7-day advance booking privileges.
- An online booking username and password is available to you. Ask in the Pro Shop. Book tee-times at golffernie.com
- Voting privileges and the opportunity to become a member of the board of directors.
- Reciprocal rates at some local member golf clubs in the East Kootenay region. Ask for more information in the pro shop.
- 10% off regular menu items in the restaurant. Excluding alcohol. Please let staff know upon ordering that you are a member of the club.
- Each member is eligible to sponsor up to 2 (two) junior members to a no cost membership per season. Ask at the pro shop for more information.
- Preferred pricing on select items in the pro shop.
- 6 discounted green fee rates for guests when they join you.
- For further information and specials, see the Club website: www.golffernie.com

Please feel free to contact us in the pro shop at any time to answer any questions you have. Thanks again for joining and we look forward to seeing you frequently throughout the golf season.

Sincerely,
Max Sherwood
General Manager

Board of Directors

Position	Name
President	Jamey Farr
Vice President	Dave Karbashewski
Secretary	Jane Cocciolo
Treasurer	Neil McKendrick
Director	Loretta Johnson
Director	Lynn Rogers
Director	Gord Goodman
Director	John Lennox
Director	Jeff Williams
Superintendent	Ray Bryant
General Manager	Max Sherwood
Bookkeeper	Beth Field
Past President	Gord Goodman

The Fernie Golf Club Annual General Meeting occurs every April.

To learn more about how to become a board member send your request to gm@golffernie.com.

2024 Tournament Schedule

Senior Club Opening	May 16 th
Ladies Opening	May 21 st
Men's Opening	May 22 nd
Ladies Special	June 18 th
Men's Special	June 26 th
Fernie Open	July 6 th /7 th
Tony Servello Senior Open	July 18 th
Club Championships	Aug 10 th /11 th
Ladies Closing	Sept 15 th
Senior Club Closing	Sept 19 th
Men's Closing	Sept 22 nd
Iron Man/Iron Lady	Oct 6 th
Turkey Tombstone	Oct 14 th

Don't forget to come out for Ladies Day on Tuesdays, Men's Night on Wednesdays or Senior Day on Thursday mornings!

To view the most up to date version of this schedule go to www.golffernie.com

Member Code of Conduct

- All staff (including restaurant, clubhouse, pro shop, beverage cart and grounds staff) shall be treated with respect. All staff are instructed to report any staff abuse to the general manager and it will be dealt with by the board as soon as possible.
- If you have a specific issue that you would like to bring to the Board of Director's attention, please do so in writing and deliver to the General Manager.
- If you are concerned about a group on the golf course, please let the pro shop know as soon as possible. Do not try to take matters into your own hands.
- The back shop is off limits for everyone unless authorized by staff.
- Repair ball marks, rake sand traps and replace all divots. Please leave rakes outside of the bunkers.
- Please use proper etiquette while on the course. Throwing golf clubs or foul language will not be tolerated.
- Members and public will be required to adhere to the day's pace of play. Recommended pace of play for an average day is 4 hours 10 minutes.
- Hitting areas on the driving range will be signed and enforced. Hitting from the grass areas will only be available when the ropes are set.
- Food or drinks not purchased from the clubhouse restaurant are not permitted for consumption in the clubhouse restaurant.
- Members are responsible for all actions of their guests.

Rules and Regulations

Power Carts:

Power carts must be driven appropriately and in accordance with the following. Power carts must stay on the cart paths around all greens and tee boxes at all times. Power carts are not allowed in penalty areas, restricted areas on the course as indicated by signs and the parking lot. Power carts must never be driven off the Golf Club property. An operator of a power cart must possess a valid driver's license. Children are not permitted to operate power carts. The pro shop staff will determine the time of day that carts must be returned each evening. The pro shop may also indicate any daily restrictions on power cart use, such as 90-degree use and restrictions from driving on certain areas on the course. Failure to comply with the above rules for golf cart operation may result in a warning, surcharge, or loss of riding and/or playing privileges. Damage done to a power cart is the responsibility of the driver.

A sign will be posted in the pro shop displaying the time in which carts must be returned if you are playing in the evening. This is necessary for your own safety and allowing us enough time to clean and restock the cart for the next day. Any one riding in a power cart with an individual that pays yearly cart fees must pay the pro shop for their seat in the cart.

Pull Carts:

Pull carts must remain off all greens and out of all penalty areas.

Dress Code:

Appropriate golf attire must always be worn as defined below:

Shirts must have sleeves or collar or both. (No rude or crude messages, no halter tops, muscle shirts or bathing suit attire.)

The Pro Shop staff will be instructed to enforce the dress code.

Alcohol on the Course:

Liquor license restrictions state that alcoholic beverages must be purchased from the bar, halfway house or beverage cart. Golfers are not permitted to

bring their own alcoholic beverages onto FGC property. Alcohol is not permitted in the parking lot. The Fernie Golf Club does not approve of excessive drinking on the golf course. Anyone considered by the course marshal or any club official to be affecting the enjoyment of others while playing golf will be requested to leave the golf course.

Smoking:

Smoking and vaping are not permitted on the patio or within 6 meters of a door or air intake. The designated smoking area in front of the clubhouse is adjacent to the patio entrance way at the southeast corner (beside the parking lot) of the clubhouse. There is no smoking cannabis on the practice putting green and driving range.

Clubhouse restaurant:

Under no circumstance is a member allowed to enter the serving area, bar, or kitchen area without permission from the restaurant management.

Food or drinks not purchased from the clubhouse restaurant are not permitted for consumption in the clubhouse restaurant.

Breach of Rules:

Any breach of the above rules and regulations may result in removal from the course and premises, loss or restriction of golfing or riding privileges, and/or loss of membership, as may be determined by the General Manager. In no case will there be any refund of any green fees, membership fees or any other amount.

Back Packs and Bicycles:

Backpacks and shoes must be put in locker, not left outside the front of the pro shop. All bicycles must be parked in the bike rack.

Amendments:

The Board of Directors may amend the Rules and Regulations from time to time and any amendments will be effective from the date of posting on the club website.

General Tee Times

All members can book tee times up to 7 days in advance (*excluding junior members*).

Member blocks have been put aside on the tee sheet on busy days to ensure an adequate number of times are available throughout the day. On those extremely busy Saturdays in June and September member times have been set aside earlier in the day to allow access to the course before the larger groups play. Please ensure you book well in advance of those busy weekend days to avoid disappointment.

On the first Tuesday and the third Wednesday of each month, play will start on the back-nine for the entire day. This rotation enables the maintenance crew the opportunity to perform extra duties on the front nine early in the morning.

When booking for fewer than 4 players the pro shop staff may require you to join other players. Please do not change the make-up of your group once on the golf course by breaking up the foursome.

Please include the names of other members in your booking. Any cancellations or changes to the booking should be communicated to the pro shop 24 hours prior to the time of play.

All members must check in to the Pro Shop prior to teeing off.

Playing groups of 5 or more are not allowed except under the special discretion of the G.M./Head Professional or acting manager.

Recommended guidelines for pace of play for 18 holes is to keep up with the group in front or 4 hours and 10 minutes or better. On certain days that are busy with public play, this time may be extended to accommodate all the groups on the golf course. Please display patience with all groups and golf course staff during these times. Please take advantage of the member blocked times earlier in the day on these busy days. On the busy days where we use a course marshal, they will only instruct those groups playing at a pace slower than 4:10 regardless of how much empty space is in front of the group.

The pace of play for the first group each day should not be less than 3 hours and 45 minutes so that the maintenance team can perform their routines in a timely matter.

Tee times can be booked by calling the pro shop or online at

www.golffernie.com/book-tee-time/ .

Every member has a username and password for booking through the Tee-On system. For help on booking tee times or managing your account go to

www.golffernie.com/member-booking-help/.

Members can now book directly into their league times at www.golffernie.com/book-tee-time/. If you would like to be added to a specific league to book online, please contact the pro shop.

Member Rights and Refunds

Member Rights:

Any member has the right to put forth to the Board any comments, complaints, or suggestions they may have regarding their experience at the Fernie Golf Club.

Please do so in the form of a signed and sealed letter or an e-mail to the General Manager. In no event shall members submit any complaints to staff members.

Membership Refunds:

Any member unable to use their membership due to medical reasons or relocation from the area will receive a credit to be used toward a membership for the following season. A written application must be made to the Board. The application will apply to the month the injury or relocation occurred. A Doctor's note or proof of residency change must accompany the request. Credits will apply to the next year membership dues unless otherwise determined by the Board as follows:

Prior to play	100% credit	
April – May 31	75%	credit
Month of June	55%	credit
Month of July	35%	credit
Month of August	15%	credit

Affiliation dues, member services, computer and club tournament fees are excluded from the above credit and are non-refundable.

Junior Membership

Junior membership is free when sponsored by an adult member. If you are interested in sponsoring a junior but don't have one in mind, please notify the pro shop.

Playing privileges: Junior members must be accompanied by a paid adult member or guest if playing before 1PM Fri, Sat, or Sun. Junior golfers can only book tee times on the day of play.

Juniors are subject to all Rules and Regulations herein.

Please contact the pro shop for more information regarding junior night and other related junior programs.

About the Course

The first home of the Fernie Golf Club course, which started in 1918, lay in the area of today's soccer fields in Prentice Park. The early success of the club, as it remains today, is largely attributable to the hard work of its volunteer members.

The Fernie Golf Club, which joined forces with the local tennis club, was renamed the Fernie Golf and Country Club in 1928. The same year, the Ladies Club, which had been active since the early days, also joined the larger organization and became a strong force organizing events and tournaments.

The clubhouse was the center of social activities for club members, with Ladies Club members inviting guests to tea to show off the club's amenities and golfers meeting for post-game libations. At the 1936 AGM, House Committee chairman Mr. Stewart reported that the clubhouse "had been run very satisfactorily, the house not having been visited by the red coats during the season".

In 1968, the construction and planting of new grass greens began, and other course upgrades took place including piping for underground sprinkling systems and realigning holes. A few years later in 1972, a new clubhouse, with a pro shop and maintenance building, was built at the end of 2nd Avenue.

As the 1980s arrived, club members started dreaming about 18 holes. With the generous help of local industry, government grants and a bank loan, members were golfing on one of the most beautiful and majestic courses in the province by early 1986. A few years later the present clubhouse, maintenance building and golf cart house were added to complete the outstanding facilities. Now, no longer a true country club, the name of the organization has returned to its roots as the Fernie Golf Club.



FERNIE GOLF CLUB



Course Rating and Slope Rating

Certified By: BRITISH COLUMBIA GOLF ASSOCIATION

Authorized Golf Association

KOJO FREMPONG

Name

MANAGER OF COURSE RATING

Title

15-Oct-2023

Effective Rating Date

Explanation:

A Course Rating is the evaluation of the playing difficulty of a course for scratch golfers under normal course and weather conditions. It is expressed as strokes taken to one decimal place, and is based on yardage and other obstacles to the extent that they affect the scoring ability of a scratch golfer.

A Slope Rating evaluates the relative playing difficulty of a course for players who are not scratch golfers. The lowest Slope Rating is 55 and the highest is 155. A golf course of standard playing difficulty has a Slope Rating of 113.

Course ratings are determined, by permission of the World Handicap System, in accordance with the Course Rating System™ for the purpose of providing a uniform basis of which to issue a Handicap Index. Course Rating, Slope Rating®, and Handicap Index® are marks owned by the World Handicap System and may only be used in connection with the World Handicap System™.

Tee Name	Length	Gender	Course Rating™/ Slope Rating	Front Nine	Front Nine Par	Back Nine	Back Nine Par	Total Par
BLACK	6570	Women	77.2/143	37.9/137	36	39.3/148	37	73
BLACK/BLUE	6342	Women	76.0/140	37.3/132	35	38.7/147	35	70
BLUE	6106	Women	74.6/137	36.7/130	35	37.9/144	35	70
BLUE/WHITE	5710	Women	72.4/133	35.5/126	35	36.9/139	35	70
WHITE	5441	Women	71.0/129	34.7/121	35	36.3/137	35	70
WHITE/RED	5342	Women	70.5/129	34.3/123	35	36.2/134	35	70
RED	5112	Women	69.0/125	33.8/119	35	35.2/131	35	70
RED/GREEN	4150	Women	63.5/109	31.2/104	34	32.3/113	34	68
GREEN	3630	Women	60.1/100	29.8/98	34	30.3/102	34	68



R&A USGA

FERNIE GOLF CLUB



Course Rating and Slope Rating

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Tee Name	Length	Gender	Course Rating™/ Slope Rating	Front Nine	Front Nine Par	Back Nine	Back Nine Par	Total Par
BLACK	6570	Men	71.5/133	35.1/131	35	36.4/135	35	70
BLACK/BLUE	6342	Men	70.5/133	34.5/130	35	36.0/135	35	70
BLUE	6106	Men	69.1/131	34.1/126	35	35.0/135	35	70
BLUE/WHITE	5710	Men	67.1/122	32.9/117	35	34.2/126	35	70
WHITE	5441	Men	65.6/115	32.1/110	35	33.5/119	35	70
WHITE/RED	5342	Men	65.0/115	31.8/107	35	33.2/122	35	70
RED	5112	Men	63.9/109	31.4/104	35	32.5/114	35	70
RED/GREEN	4150	Men	60.7/96	29.9/91	33	30.8/100	34	67
GREEN	3630	Men	59.1/90	29.3/88	33	29.8/91	34	67

Bayleaf Indian Fusion

Operated by Bayleaf Indian Fusion, with a very experienced Food and Beverage staff, and has something for everyone:

- Open plan, full-service restaurant, with seating capacity for up to 150 guests.
- Serving lunch, dinner and daily specials throughout the golf season.
- Air-conditioning for those hot summer days.
- Beautiful wrap around deck with full food and beverage service.
- Friendly, professional, fully certified service staff.

Members receive 10% off regular menu items. This does not include alcohol or daily specials. Please let your server know that you are a member at the time of ordering.

The Pro Shop

Our Pro Shop is a full-service operation that will look after all your golf needs. We offer equipment, clothing, footwear, gloves, logoed merchandise, and many accessories to help you get the most out of your game. Member discounts apply for certain merchandise.

If you don't see exactly what you're looking for in the shop, we are able to custom order merchandise from any supplier.

When it comes to equipment, we offer equipment fitting from major brands as well as demo days. When purchasing, we offer competitive pricing against all major retailers, including tax.

2024 Leagues

Tuesday Ladies' Day

Ladies Day is run by the Ladies Club every Tuesday throughout the season. There are 2 tee time blocks during the day where ladies will get together and play a fun game. All ages and skill levels are welcome to play. There is small fee to participate in the weekly event. Sign up individually or with friends.

Wednesday Men's Night

The Men's Club puts on men's night every Wednesday. You can play at any time during the day if you are playing with another person to attest your score. There are tee times set aside for men's night play from 3:30 until 6:00, you will need to book your own tee time. The cost for men's night is \$10 per night, this gets you into the low gross/net game, snips and closest to the pins. All prizes are paid out in gift certificates to either the pro shop or one of our sponsor's businesses. Men's night is open to all players; however, you must pay your men's night entry if you are playing between 3:30 and 6:00.

Thursday Senior Morning

The senior club puts on their Thursday morning event each week throughout the season. Starting times may be adjusted early and late season.

Men's Match Play

We have two season long match play events: Men's singles and Men's Doubles. Sign up takes place in May, please ask in the pro shop for details.

2024 Boyd and Haddad Cup

Introduction

The Boyd and Haddad Cup is an annual men's interclub tournament between Fernie, Kimberley, Cranbrook, Creston, Birchbank, Castlegar, Balfour and Granite Point. The teams are comprised of 8 Boyd Cup players and 8 Haddad Cup players. The Boyd teams play without a handicap and the Haddad teams play with their Golf Canada Handicap. The format is aggregate 2 player best ball. The team with the lowest aggregate score wins the cup. This tournament takes place at a different club every year.

Selection Process

The selection process for the 2023 season was as follows.

Boyd Team

One spot goes to the winner of the Fernie Open. Lowest 2-day gross score.

One spot goes to the winner of the Club Championship. Lowest 2-day gross score.

The remaining spots are selected from Men's Night. An average of the best 5 gross scores will be used.

If the winner of the Fernie Open/Club Championship chooses not to participate in the event, an additional player will be chosen from Men's Night.

Haddad Team

One spot goes to the winner of the Fernie Open. Lowest 2-day net score.

One spot goes to the winner of the Club Championship. Lowest 2-day net score.

The remaining spots are selected from Men's Night. An average of the best 5 net scores will be used.

If the winner of the Fernie Open/Club Championship chooses not to participate in the event, an additional player will be chosen from Men's Night.

Local Rules

Summary of Local Rules

<u>Rule #</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Model Local Rule Reference (See Note 1 below)</u>
1.	Immovable Obstructions – Definitions	
2.	Penalty Areas	B-1
3.	Course Boundaries	A-1
4.	Internal Out of Bounds	A-4
5.	Provisional Ball for Ball in Penalty Area	B-3
6.	Dropping Zone	E-1
7.	Preferred Lies	E-4
8.	Alternative to Stroke and Distance for Lost Ball or Ball Out of Bounds	E-5
9.	No Play Zones – Protection of Young Trees	E-10
10.	Relief for Tree Roots In or Close to Fairway	F-9
11.	Damage by Animals	F-10 & F-13
12.	No Play Zones	E-8.1

Note 1:

1. For full text of Model Local Rules. Refer to Rules of Golf, Committee Procedures, Section 8.
2. Taking relief under Rule 16 (Local Rules 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12: stand in relief area and drop ball from knee height.

Local Rules

1. Immovable Obstructions. The following are deemed to be immovable obstructions, from which free relief is allowed under Rule 16.1: (i) the concrete structures (old sawmill foundations) on left side of #15 fairway, (ii) all roads and paths, even if not artificially surfaced, and (iii) guard screens on #6, 9, 16, and 17. This rule applies anywhere on the course except in a penalty area.
2. Penalty Areas (B-1). Penalty Areas are marked by red stakes and an imaginary line following the contours of the edge of general area. If the edge is not clear, then use line of sight.
3. Course Boundaries (A-1). Out of Bounds is defined by white stakes and a straight line of sight extending from the course side of each stake to the next adjacent stake.
4. Internal Out of Bounds (A-4). During play of #18, the right side of the fairway, defined by white stakes, is out of bounds.
5. Provisional Ball for Ball in a Penalty Area (B-3). If a player does not know whether their ball is in the penalty area, the player may play a provisional ball using any of the following relief options: (i) stroke-and-distance, (ii) back-on-the-line, (iii) lateral relief option (see Rule 17.1d) or (iv) using the dropping zone available for this penalty area, if applicable. See below (Long Form) and Model Local Rule B-3 for full details of the Local Rule. When the original ball is not found within 3-minute search time or is known or virtually certain to be in the

penalty area, then the provisional ball becomes the player's ball in play.

6. Dropping Zones. (E-1). As an extra relief option for the penalty area, if a player's ball is in a penalty area marked by red stakes with a black top on any one of (a) the pond on #5, (b) left side of #10, (c) back of green on #11, (c) the pond on #13, or (d) the pond on #16, adding one penalty stroke, a player may drop a ball in the dropping zone on the respective hole which is that area within an area outlined on the ground or within a 2 club length radius from a stake or sign marking the dropping zone, as the case may be. The dropping zone is a relief area under Rule 14.3
7. Preferred Lies. (E-3). Note: This Local Rule shall be in effect only at such time or times and with respect to such areas as the Committee may determine from time to time. When a player's ball lies in a part of the general area (location to be determined) cut to fairway height or less, the player may prefer the lie within one club-length. See below (Long Form) and Model Local Rule E-3 for full details of the Local Rule. Note: Ball must be placed (not dropped) in the relief area.
8. Alternative to Stroke and Distance for Lost Ball or Ball Out of Bounds. (E-5) When a player's ball has not been found or is known or virtually certain to be out of bounds, the player may proceed under the Stroke and Distance Local Rule for a **penalty of two strokes**, rather than proceeding under stroke and distance. This Local Rule is not available if a provisional ball has been played. See below (Long Form) and Model Local Rule E-5 for full details of the Local Rule.
9. No Play Zones - Protection of Young Trees. (E-10). The young trees identified by flags, or which are staked 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 area of intended stance or area of intended swing, the player must take relief under Rule 16.1f.

10. Relief from Tree Roots in or Close to Fairway. (F-9) If a player's ball lies in the general area and there is interference from exposed tree roots that are in a part of the general area cut to fairway height or less or in the rough within 2 club-lengths from the edge of the area cut to fairway height or less, the tree roots are treated as ground under repair. The player may take free relief under Rule 16.1b. But relief is not allowed if the tree roots only interfere with the player's stance.
11. Damage by Animals. (F-10/F-13). Areas of damage (including without limitation, damage by hoofprints) in (a) the general area (b) greens, or (c) bunkers caused by wildlife including without limitation, bears, deer, antelope, moose, or foxes, are treated as ground under repair from which relief is allowed under Rule 16.1b. But relief is not allowed if the damage only interferes with the player's stance.
12. No Play Zones. (E-8.1). Note: This Local Rule shall be in effect only at such time or times as the Committee may determine from time to time. The area defined by green stakes on (location to be determined) is a no play zone and is to be treated as an abnormal course condition. Free relief must be taken from the no play zone under Rule 16.1f.

Long Form of Local Rules

1. Provisional Ball in a Penalty Area (B-3).

If a player does not know whether their ball is in a penalty area, the player may play a provisional ball under Rule 18.3, which is modified in this way:

In playing the provisional ball, the player may use the stroke-and-distance relief option (see Rule 17.1d(1)), the back-on-the-line relief

option (see Rule 17.1d(2)) or, if it is a red penalty area, the lateral relief option (see Rule 17.1d(3)). If a dropping zone is available for this penalty area (see Model Local Rule E-1), the player may also use that relief option. Once the player has played a provisional ball under this Local Rule, they may not use any further options under Rule 17.1 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) and 18.3c(3) apply except that:

When Original Ball Is Found in Penalty Area Within Three-Minute Search Time. 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.

2. Preferred Lies (E-3). NOTE: This Local Rule shall be in effect only at such time or times as the Committee may determine from time to time. When any part of a player's ball touches part of the general area (specify applicable holes) 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: One club length 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.

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. But for the purposes of applying Rule 14.2e, the player has only chosen the spot on which to place the ball once the ball has been set down, and the player has let the ball go with the intent for that ball to be in play. After a ball has been placed and is in play under this Local Rule, if the player then proceeds under another Rule that provides relief, this Local Rule may be used again.

3. Alternative to Stroke and Distance for Lost Ball or Ball Out of Bounds. (E-5). When a player's ball has not been found or is known or virtually certain to be out of bounds, the player may proceed as follows rather than proceeding under stroke and distance. For **two penalty strokes**, the player may take relief by dropping the original ball or another ball in this relief area (see Rule 14.3):
Two Estimated Reference Points:

(a) Ball Reference Point: The point where the original ball is estimated to have:

- Come to rest on the course, or
- Last crossed the edge of the course boundary to go out of bounds.

(b) Fairway Reference Point: The point of fairway of the hole being played that is nearest to the ball reference point but is not nearer the hole than the ball reference point. For purposes of this Local Rule, "fairway" means any part of the general area cut to fairway height or less. If a ball is estimated to be lost on the course or last crossed the edge of the course boundary short of the fairway, the fairway reference point may be a grass path or a teeing ground for the hole being played cut to fairway height or less.

Size of Relief Area Based on Reference Points: Anywhere between:

- A line from the hole through the ball reference point (and within two club-lengths to the outside of that line), and
- A line from the hole through the fairway reference point (and within two club-lengths to the fairway side of that line).

But with these limits: Limits on Location of Relief Area:

- Must be in the general area, and
- Must not be nearer the hole than the ball reference point.

Once the player puts a ball in play under this Local Rule:

- The original ball is no longer in play and must not be played.
- This is true even if the ball is found on the course before the end of the three-minute search time (see Rule 6.3b).

But the player may not use this option to take relief for the original ball when:

- That ball is known or virtually certain to have come to rest in a penalty area, or
- The player has played another ball provisionally under penalty of stroke and distance (see Rule 18.3).

A player may use this option to take relief for a provisional ball that has not been found or is known or virtually certain to be out of bounds.

Rule Changes

The USGA and R&A have implemented many rule changes in hopes that they will make the game simpler and quicker. Here is a summary of the main changes that will most likely impact your game on a day-to-day basis.

1. Time to look for a ball has been reduced to 3 minutes.
2. Hazards have been split into penalty areas and bunkers with different rules for each. You can now ground your club in a penalty area and remove loose impediments. You are no longer allowed to take relief on the other side of a red penalty area unless you are taking back on the line relief.
3. You can remove loose impediments in a bunker as well as touch the sand provided you are not testing the condition, making a practice swing, touching right in front or behind the ball or during your backswing. When taking an unplayable in a bunker you have an additional option to take back on the line relief outside of the bunker for a 2-stroke penalty.
4. There is no penalty when a ball struck from the putting green hits an unattended flagstick in the hole.
5. There is no penalty for stepping on or accidentally moving your ball when searching. The ball must be replaced on its original spot or estimated spot if the original spot is unknown. This rule also applies to the putting green.
6. You are permitted to repair any damage done by a person on the putting green.
7. There is no penalty when a ball in motion is deflected by you or your equipment. Ball is played as it lies. Similarly, when a ball is double hit, there is no penalty, and the ball is played as it lies.
8. When taking relief, a ball must be dropped from knee height and land and come to rest in the relief area.