TEMPORARY LOCAL RULES – WINTER 2026-27

Effective from date shown

TLR1 - PREFERRED LIES

When a player's ball lies in a part of the *general area* cut to **fairway height or less** (fairways, aprons and green fringes only), the player may take free relief once by placing the original ball or another ball, in and playing it, from the relief area. The relief area is within 6 inches from the spot of the original ball and must be in the g*eneral area* and not be nearer the hole.

The ball may be cleaned before being placed.

TLR2 – CLEANING BALL - LIFTING, CLEANING & REPLACING A BALL LYING OFF THE FAIRWAY – withdrawn 5th November

When a player's ball lies in a part of the *general area* **NOT** cut to fairway height or less, the ball may be lifted, cleaned, and **replaced** without penalty. The player must mark the spot before lifting the ball (under Golf Rule 14.1) and the ball must be replaced **on its original spot** (under Golf Rule 14.2).

N.B. Failure to replace ball in the original spot is a two-shot penalty in stroke play/loss of hole in match play: (Rule 14.7a)

TLR3 - BUNKER FILLED WITH TEMPORARY WATER

When any bunker is flooded to the extent that the temporary water interferes with a player's stance or area of intended swing, such that free relief under Golf Rule 16.1c is not sufficient to allow for fair play, the bunker may be deemed as ground under repair (GUR) and free relief taken under Golf Rule 16.1b by dropping the ball in the *relief area*.

To determine the *relief area*, a player should:

- Identify the nearest point of complete relief outside of the bunker, (the reference point) and
- Drop the ball within one club length of the reference point, not nearer the hole

NOTE: A specific bunker may only be designated as GUR if notice has been given by the Club, either via iG, course status board (1st tee) or next to the bunker itself.

TLR 4 - AREAS TEMPORARILY DESIGNATED AS NO PLAY ZONES (NPZ)

Under Heswall Local Rule 4g, the following areas have been designated as **No Play Zones (NPZ) (Abnormal Course Conditions)** and assume the player's ball **is found** in the NPZ.

(A) Temporary putting greens when not in use **(**marked with white lines)

(B) Hole 10 – Pond and staked area (marked with White stake/Green Top(cap)

If a ball lies in one of these areas, free relief MUST be taken under Rule 16.1b by dropping the ball within **one club length** of the nearest point of complete relief, not nearer the hole.

NB Ball "not found" in a NPZ

If however, the player's ball is not found the following applies…ref Rule 16.1

If a player's ball has not been found and it is ***known or virtually certain that the ball came to rest in the NPZ (abnormal course condition)***, the player may use this free relief option instead of taking stroke & distance relief (under penalty of one stroke).

The player may take relief under Rule 16.1b,c or d using the estimated point where the ball last crossed the edge of the NPZ condition on the course, as the spot of the ball for the 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 even true if it is then found on the course before the end of the 3 minute search time (see Rule 6.b)
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But if it is **not known or virtually certain** that the ball came to rest in the NPZ **and the ball is lost** - the player **must take stroke and distance relief under Rule 18.2 under penalty of one stroke)**

TLR5 - COMPULSORY USE OF FAIRWAY MATS

When a player's ball lies in a part of the *general area* **(i)** cut to fairway height or less (fairways, aprons and green fringes) and a putter is not being used for the stroke, the player **must** take free relief by lifting the original ball and placing the original ball or another ball on an artificial mat and play it from there.

The mat must be placed on top of the spot where the ball came to rest. If a ball when placed rolls off the mat, the player must try to place it a second time. If the ball again does not stay on the mat, the mat must be moved to the nearest spot, not nearer the hole, where the ball will come to rest on the mat when placed.

If the ball on the mat is accidentally moved before a stroke is made, there is no penalty and the ball must be placed again on the mat.

If a tee is used to secure the mat into the ground, the ball must not be placed on the tee.

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

NB (TLR 5) will apply to Par 3's – in areas cut to fairway height or less including aprons and surrounds.

TLR6 - USE OF TEMPORARY WINTER TEEING AREAS OR MATS

When a temporary teeing mat is in use, **ALL** players must commence play of the hole by teeing their ball on the mat provided.

The players **feet and ball** must be placed on and the ball played from the mat when the mat is the designated teeing ground.

A tee may be used when placing the ball on the mat.

N.B. A ball played from outside the mat is in breach of the Local Rule and the penalty is the general penalty under Rule 6.2b (Playing Ball from Teeing Area)

Rules footnote - ref clarification for Playing from a Red Penalty area

As allowed for by Rule 17.1b a player may choose to play their shot (without penalty) from inside any area of the course designated as a Red Penalty area. However, they are not entitled to Lift, Clean & Place or Replace their ball under such circumstances (ie TLR 2 does not apply). The ball must be played ***as it lies***.

November 2026