



Local Course Rules

Jeanine Felix, Rules Chair
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In compliance with Committee Procedures Section 8 – Model Local Rules under the USGA Rules of Golf, the CVWGC Rules Committee, with Board approval, have set forth the following CVWGC Local Rules that address the particular and unique situations and conditions of the Carson Valley G.C. These rules apply only to the CVWGC weekly Play Days or any other CVWGC sanctioned event played on the Carson Valley G.C. When in doubt, refer to the USGA Rules, which take precedence.

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1. Ground Under Repair

For 2023 the committee has expanded and clarified abnormal course conditions that qualify for free relief as ground under repair as follows;

Bare ground/dirt in the fairway is considered **Ground Under Repair** and relief without penalty is allowed.

Waste Area

Bare dirt/ground in the **rough** of the **general area** is now designated as **Waste Area**; play the ball as it lies. However, should your ball be lying in a waste area where your **club** would come in contact with rocks and/or stones during the course of playing your ball, **YOU MAY TAKE A ONE-CLUB-LENGTH RELIEF (NO CLOSER TO THE HOLE), AND YOU MUST HAVE MAJORITY CONSENSUS FROM ALL PLAYERS IN YOUR GROUP TO CONFIRM AN ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITION APPLIES.**

Examples of **Waste Areas** on the course include:

- Hole #2 - between the fairway and boundary fence on the right side.
- Hole #9 - to left and right of the cart path approach to bridge and beyond that is not defined by gravel.
- Hole #10 - alongside the cart path to the right of fairway as well as the narrow strip between cart path and boundary fence is considered **Waste Area** and must be played if found to be the nearest point of complete relief from the cart path.
- Hole #12 - between the fairway and boundary fence on the left side.
- Hole #16 - between the fairway and the **Penalty Area** on the right side.

Notes:

1. Divots or patches of multiple divots may appear as bare ground but are never considered as **Ground Under Repair** or **Waste Area**. Divots must be played as the ball lies.
2. There are additional areas of bare ground in the rough of the general area that may not be well defined. You may remove loose impediments and movable obstructions so long as the ball does not move. You can always choose a one-stroke penalty using any of the 3 options available under **USGA Rule 19.2** (Unplayable Ball).

2. Abnormal Course Conditions

Per **USGA Rule #16** relief without penalty is allowed for abnormal course conditions in **General Area** and on the **Greens**. In 2023, the committee has expanded abnormal conditions to include areas of unusual water damage, animal/insect damage and/or excrement that will affect either a player's golf swing or stance.

Relief Without Penalty

USGA Rule #16 describes the correct method for taking the Nearest Point of Complete Relief. **PRIOR TO TAKING RELIEF CONSULT WITH AT LEAST ONE PLAYING PARTNER TO CONFIRM AN ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITION APPLIES!**

- **Standing Water and Unusual Wet Conditions**

When heavy rain or the watering system has resulted in areas of standing water and/or unusual damage such as deep ruts from vehicles or foot traffic they are to be treated as ground under

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repair whether marked or not. On the **Greens**, relief is allowed if the abnormal condition exists between the ball and the hole.

When wet conditions cause mud to stick to the ball players are allowed to mark, pick-up, clean and replace their ball to same lie in the general area. You must advise a teammate of your intention beforehand and you must adhere to **USGA rules 14.1 & 14.2** in replacing the ball

- **Animal/insect damage and/or excrement**

Anywhere on the course where there is unusual damage due to animals/ insects (vole burrows, gopher mounds, rabbit/squirrel holes or ant hills) or animal excrements like bear or dog scat that may impact either player's golf swing or golf stance will be considered as ground under repair.

Note: Geese and deer droppings are not considered abnormal and therefore no relief is given.

- **Man-Made Obstructions**

Free relief, no closer to the hole, is allowed for man-made obstructions including control boxes, sprinkler heads, and range markers. Also, the large logs placed on the ground adjacent to some of the greens as on holes #3, #4, #9, #15 qualify, but **BOUNDARY FENCES DO NOT QUALIFY** for free relief on any hole.

- **Cart Paths**

The course does not have clearly defined **Cart Paths**, and in some cases the paths transit through **Waste Areas** or are close to **Boundary Fences** (no relief). Before taking relief, confirm with your playing partners that your ball actually lies on the path and on which side of the path you can take relief. Be aware that nearest point of complete relief (your ball, stance or swing is not interfered with) may be in **Waste Area, Penalty Area**, or against a **Boundary Fence**. In which case, you may opt to play the ball as it lies on the **Cart Path** without penalty.

- **Staked Trees**

There are a few recently planted trees with stakes remaining on the course. By local rule you are allowed free relief, no closer to the hole, if the stake, tree limbs, trunk or root interferes with the lie of the ball, your stance or intended swing path of your club.

IF A DISPUTE ARISES BETWEEN PLAYERS OVER A FREE RELIEF, the player should take pictures and play two balls on that hole then annotate the nature of the dispute on the back of the scorecard. The Women's Club Board and Rules Committee will assess the dispute and make determination as to how the hole will be scored.

3. Dropping Zone

The committee has established a designated dropping zone as an additional relief option for players who've hit into a water hazard on Hole #1. You have the extra option for a one-stroke penalty to drop your ball within the designated drop zone on the other side of the penalty to the left of the tree located after the bridge. The dropping zone is a relief area under **USGA Rule 14.3**.

Alternatively, a one-stroke penalty for a water hazard can be taken for either **Stroke & Distance** or **Back-on-the-Line of Relief** according to **USGA Rule 17.1**.

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4. Out of Bounds and Lost Ball

The **USGA** approved local rule for **Out of Bounds** and **Lost Ball** remains in effect. If you suspect your ball is lost in the **General Area** or is **Out of Bounds** you may choose to play “stroke and distance”, but under the local rule intended to keep the pace of play you have the option of advancing the ball to the approximate point of loss or where the ball crossed out of bounds. From that point you can move the ball to the nearest point on the fairway, but no closer to the hole. The general penalty of two strokes is added to your score on that hole. This rule does not apply to a ball lost in a **Penalty Area** (see **USGA Rule #17** for Penalty Area procedures).

5. Penalty Areas

Clarification of our Local Course Penalty Areas:

- The **Carson River** and all its waterways are played as “**Red Penalty Areas**” unless otherwise marked.
- If a penalty area is not properly marked, you use its natural margins. If your ball lies outside of an imaginary line between two adjacent red stakes, you are still in the penalty area. An example of natural margins would be within the banks of any waterway.
- The hill on the right of Hole # 11, after the dogleg left, is a “**Red Penalty Area**”, although not totally marked. Its line is defined as the intersection of the two planes formed by the “slope of the hill” and the “general” area. If your ball lands on the hillside you have three options:
 1. Play the ball where it lies with no penalty.
 2. Take two club lengths from the location where your ball crossed the bottom of the hillside for a one-point penalty. As a reminder, the dirt below the hillside is considered part of the fairway so your two club lengths may put you in an undesirable location. (See “Waste Area” on page 2 under “Ground Under Repair” for further explanation.)
 3. Stroke and distance.
- New for 2019 **USGA Rule 17.1d** (Relief for Ball in Penalty Area) removes the option to take relief on the opposite side of a red penalty area. For example, the red/yellow markers to the right of the foot bridge to Green #2/Tee #3, relief must be taken from the direction the ball first crossed the penalty area.

6. Pace of Play

To improve **Pace of Play**, and in accordance with **USGA Rule 21.2**, the existing **Max Stroke** rule of 12 strokes per hole has been modified to a more equitable:

Net Double Bogey - defined as Par + 2 + Pops for each hole

A player’s course handicap allowance on each hole, or Pops, can be calculated with the Pops calculator on the Links page of www.CVWGC.com web page. Pops are the small dots (•) or checks (✓) placed on each hole of the scorecard that should add up the player’s handicap allowance (handicap strokes) for the course.

- When a player reaches net double bogey, she should pick up if any of the following conditions:
 - Group behind you is waiting to hit.
 - Your group has fallen behind the group ahead of you.
 - You are getting tired and/or frustrated.
 - You are slowing up your group.

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Note: If none of these conditions are in play, players may elect to continue normal play.

- A player may not pick up before the **Max Strokes** (net double bogey) has been reached without tournament disqualification.
- To maintain tournament participation (prize fund eligibility) and a post-able round when picking up, a player must add to the current stroke count, at pick up, the “most likely number of strokes to be taken in order to hole out” (i.e., Par + 2 + Pops + most likely number strokes needed to hole out).
- Continued participation in any side games (KP, chip- ins) are not affected by picking up.

Note: This **Max Stroke** rule is a local club/course rule only.