

Goonawarra Golf Club

Local Rules

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Penalty for breach of local or temporary local rules.

General Penalty Match Play Loss of Hole
Stroke Play 2 Shot Penalty

Local Rules 18 May 2026

Out Of Bounds

OOB is defined by the line at ground level of any boundary fence posts and /or white stakes and/or white vertical lines on wooden or metal posts.

The practice putting green and surrounds including all path areas is OOB.

The old pro shop and all paths surrounding it are OOB. There is no relief from the old pro shop as it is OOB.

Any area between old pro shop and first tee is not OOB

A ball coming to rest beyond any road or path that is defined as out of bounds, is OOB even if it comes to rest back in another area of the course that would otherwise be in bounds. EG a ball crossing over onto 18th hole while playing 9th or a ball crossing the road on 10th back onto the course on 11th.

Out of Bounds or Lost Ball.

Model Local Rule E-5 applies for a lost ball or OOB, allowing a drop for 2 shot penalty. (Refer to Rules of golf for detailed explanation)

Abnormal Ground Conditions.

In General Area

Ground Under Repair.

Any area with a boundary of blue lines or blue stakes or clearly defined by signage.

The area on the 8th hole where ground staff have piled items for removal in the area just left of a small gum tree left of two larger gum trees approx. 20-30 meters from the blue/white tee area left of the path. The area extends along the edge of the rough to 1 club length past the last rock at the pile of rocks, near the fence line. The area also extends directly to the left boundary fence.

New Turf.

If a ball lies in, or if there is interference to a player's stance or swing from a NEWLY TURFED area, the player MUST take relief.

Sunken Drainage Lines.

Any sunken drainage lines, which is an area where it is known or virtually certain that a drain has been laid in the past and the ground has sunk below the surrounding area.

Mulch.

Any piles of mulch around the course, Relief may be taken for stance or swing (not line of sight/play). Mulch that has been spread out is a loose impediment.

Embedded Stones.

Embedded stones of any size, impacting the lie of the ball only.

Embedded stones are stones that are not easily removed.

Wheel Marks.

Wheel marks made by any heavy equipment or machinery (including golf carts)

Cracks.

Cracks in the ground defined as an area where the ground has split apart, leaving a hole in ground.

Relief is provided to eliminate the risk of injury to player or damage to their club while making a stroke. Relief does not include small cracks or dry hard ground that would not affect a player's swing/shot.

Relief is for lie of ball only.

Tree Roots.

Ball resting on or near a tree root impacting the lie of ball or line of swing only (no relief for stance).

Staked Trees.

If a player's ball touches, or stance or area of intended swing is impacted by, a staked tree that is under 2 club lengths in height. The player must take relief under rule 16.1f.

Immoveable Obstructions.

Penalty Stakes.

Boundary Stakes.

Purple Stakes.

Distance Markers (plates and posts)

Retaining Walls.

Tee signage.

Steps (general area and bunkers).

Drainage Grates.

Sprinkler Heads.

Concrete Paths.

On Course Toilets.

In addition to normal relief options

The player may take relief under [Rule 16.1b](#) if an immovable obstruction is:

On the line of play, and is:

On or within two club-lengths of the putting green, and

Within two club-lengths of the ball.

In area cut to fairway length.

Bare Soil

Area of bare soil (soil only, does not include dead grass or divots) impacting lie of ball only.

Bunkers.

Areas where sand has been removed by movement of water resulting in deep furrows.

Penalty Areas

6th Hole Burn.

All parts of the burn bordered by either red lines, red stakes or the outer edge of any rocks lining the burn are part of the penalty area.

While playing the 6th hole, when a ball lies in the penalty area the player as an extra relief option may drop on the opposite side of where it entered the penalty area.

Provisional Ball - 3rd Hole / 11th Hole

If a player does not know whether their ball is in the penalty area ONLY on the 3rd or 11th hole the player may play a provisional ball under Rule 18-3 which is modified as below.

In playing the provisional ball, the player may use stroke and distance relief option (Rule 17.1d(1)) or the back on the line relief option (Rule 27.1d(2)).

The provisional ball **MUST NOT** be played from a drop zone unless prior shot was also played from drop zone.

Once the player has played a provisional ball under this rule, they may not use any further options under rule 17.1 in relation to the original ball,

In deciding when the provisional ball becomes the players ball in play or if it may be abandoned rule 18-3c(2) and 18.3c(3) apply except that

When original ball is found in the penalty area within 3 minute search time

The player may choose to continue to use the original ball as it lies in the penalty area

or

Continue to play the provisional ball.

If the original ball is found outside the penalty area within 3 minute search time then it remains the ball in play.

Otherwise, the standard rules apply, and the provisional ball becomes the ball in play when struck from a point closer to the hole than the point that the original ball was expected to be found.

Drop Zones

3RD Hole

If while playing the **3rd hole** from the Black Tees a player's ball is in the **red penalty area (water area between tee and green)**, including when it is known or virtually certain to be in that penalty area even though not found, the player has these relief options, each for **one penalty stroke**:

1. The player may take relief under [Rule 17.1](#), or
2. As an extra option, the player may drop the original ball or another ball in the dropping zone within 2 club lengths of either blue tee marker.

The dropping zone is a relief area under [Rule 14.3](#)

11th Hole

If while playing the **11th hole** a player's ball enters the **red penalty area at the right of the 11th green from the 11th hole**, past the drop zone located past the pump shed, including when it is known or virtually certain to be in that penalty area even though not found, the player has these relief options, each for **one penalty stroke**:

1. The player may take relief under [Rule 17.1](#), or
2. As an extra option, the player may drop the original ball or another ball in the dropping zone, located past the pump shed. The dropping zone is a relief area under [Rule 14.3](#)

15th Hole

If while playing the **15th hole** a player's ball is in the **red penalty area at back of the 15th green**, including when it is known or virtually certain to be in that penalty area even though not found, the player has these relief options, each for **one penalty stroke**:

1. The player may take relief under [Rule 17.1](#), or
2. As an extra option, the player may drop the original ball or another ball in the dropping zone next to the water left of the 15th green. The dropping zone is a relief area under [Rule 14.3](#)

16th Hole

If while playing the **16th hole** from any tees a player's ball is in the **red penalty area, water, rocks or area in front of drop zone**, including when it is known or virtually certain to be in that penalty area even though not found, the player has these relief options, each for **one penalty stroke**:

1. The player may take relief under [Rule 17.1](#), or
2. As an extra option, the player may drop the original ball or another ball in the dropping zone marked with a sign (tee length grass) in front of the forward tee area. The dropping zone is a relief area under [Rule 14.3](#)

11th Hole / 15th Hole

The penalty area that makes up the water between 11th hole and 15th hole includes the area of dense vegetation between 15th green and 11th green as marked by red lines and stakes, this is one continuous penalty area, with no gaps. A ball that has crossed the water but is not known or virtually certain to have crossed the penalty line around the vegetation back into the general area is deemed to have not cleared the penalty area. Relief needs to be taken where the ball last crossed the penalty line.

The **island tee area of the 16th hole** is part of the surrounding penalty area while playing all holes except the 16th. Relief cannot be taken by dropping onto this area unless the prior shot was played from the same area.

11th Hole

Trees on 11th hole that overhang the penalty area, any/all branches that overhang the penalty area are part of the penalty area. A ball that hits these branches and drops directly into the penalty area is deemed to have not crossed the penalty area.

If while **playing the 11th hole** a player's ball enters the **red penalty area at the back of 15th green from the 15th hole**, (not from across the water) including when it is known or virtually certain to be in that penalty area even though not found, the player is limited to these **TWO** relief options,
each for **one penalty stroke**:

1. player may take stroke and distance relief or
2. As an extra option, the player may drop the original ball or another ball in the dropping zone next to the water left of the 15th green. The dropping zone is a relief area under [Rule 14.3](#).

Clarifications

Roped off Areas / Signs / Hoops

Areas of the course roped off from carts are not GUR unless otherwise marked, Metal hoops, ropes, and their supporting posts as well as direction signs are moveable obstructions, please replace them after moving.

Track Left side of 15th hole.

The track itself IS NOT an abnormal ground condition, there is no free relief, however cracks, embedded stones, wheel marks are abnormal ground conditions where free relief may be taken.

Animals.

Holes or damage caused by animals is covered under rules of golf, rabbits, birds, dogs etc free relief is available in general area and bunkers.

There is no relief from animal droppings unless there is also damage.

Out of Bounds

There is no free relief from any conditions that are out of bounds, e.g. embedded rocks, staked trees etc.

There is no free relief from any boundary fence or OOB stakes.

Lifting/Marking a Ball - Rule 14.1a

Before lifting a ball under a Rule **requiring the ball to be replaced on its original spot anywhere on course**, the player must mark the spot. This includes lifting to check for cracks etc.

Failing to do so results in a 1 shot penalty,

When a ball is lifted to take relief under a rule, i.e. drop or place the ball in a different position, the player is **not required to mark the spot before lifting the ball**, however it is recommended to do so to ensure that relief is not taken closer to the hole, which would be a 2 shot penalty.

Lost Ball.

There is no rule that allows for a ball to be declared lost.

A ball is deemed lost when 3 minute search has been exhausted, **even if it is later found.**

A ball is also deemed lost if a replacement ball is dropped or placed with the intention of it being the ball in play, **even if the original ball is later found.**

A ball is lost/abandoned when a provisional ball is played from a position closer to the hole than where original ball is expected to be found, **even if the original ball is later found closer to the hole.**