

## **Local Rules and Conditions Of Competition**

### **For All 2020 MGCLH Members and Sponsored Championships/Events**

The latest edition of the R&A and USGA Rules of Golf and the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf governs the Men's Golf Club of Lincoln Hills members and tournament play. When applicable, the following Local Rules and Conditions, along with additional Local Rules as may be supplied or announced prior to each Championship/Event. It is the player's responsibility to know the rules and conditions—**Rule 1.3**

Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule or Condition is:

**Match Play—Loss of Hole**

**Stroke Play—Two Strokes**

### **LOCAL RULES**

#### **SCORECARD**

The Lincoln Hills Golf Course scorecard is unofficial and has no status in MGCLH sponsored Championships/Events.

#### **DELAY OF PLAY POLICY**

Rule 5.6 A player must not unreasonably delay play, either when playing a hole or between two holes. The overall time is 4 hours and 30 minutes for both courses.

Any group will be considered **out of position** if it (a) is taking more than the allotted time to play and (b) the group has arrived at the teeing ground and the group in front:

Par 3 – has cleared the next tee; Par 4 – has cleared the putting green of the hole being played; Par 5 – is on the putting green of the hole being played.

If a group is out of position, a rover may monitor it. The group will be notified that they are out of position and they are being timed. Each player must not take more than 40 seconds to hit their shot when it is their turn to play.

Delay of play penalties:

One bad time for more than 40 seconds – Warning

A second bad time – 1 stroke penalty

A third bad time – Additional 2 stroke penalty

A fourth bad time - Disqualification

If the group in question regains its proper position, any previous timing of more than 40 seconds will be carried over for the remainder of the round in the event that the group requires additional monitoring.

## **PREFERRED LIES**

When the Committee believes “Preferred Lies” would promote fair play or help protect the course, it will be announced prior to the Championship/Event. In such instances, a ball lying in the General Area (**the whole area of the course except the teeing ground being played from, all penalty areas, all bunkers and the putting green of the hole being played**) may be lifted without penalty and cleaned. Before lifting the ball, the player must mark its position. Having lifted the ball, the player must place it on a spot within **one club-length** of and not nearer the hole than where it originally lay, that is not in a penalty area and not on a putting green and must remain in the same cut of grass—fairway to fairway and rough to rough.

The player may place the ball only once—once it is placed it is in play **Rule 14.2b (2) & 14.2e**. If the player fails to mark the position of the ball before lifting it or moves the ball in any other manner, such as rolling it with a club, the player incurs a **one-stroke penalty**.

## **AERATION HOLES**

In the General Area—a ball that comes to rest in or on an aeration hole may be lifted without penalty, cleaned and dropped as near as possible to the spot where it lay but not nearer the hole. A ball when dropped must first strike a part of the course in the General Area. If the ball comes to rest in another aeration hole, the player may take relief again.

On the putting green—a ball that comes to rest in or on an aeration hole may be placed at the nearest spot not nearer the hole that avoids the situation.

### **SEAMS OF CUT TURF (SOD SEAMS)**

In the General Area—seams of cut turf (not the turf itself) are deemed to be ground under repair for interference of **BALL ONLY**. If the ball lies in or touches the seam or the seam interferes with the area of attended swing, relief is available under **Rule 16.1b & 16.1d** for the putting green. **No penalty**. All seams within the cut turf are considered the same seam.

### **NO PLAY ZONES - ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS (ESA)**

Hills Course: Holes 2, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16 and 17

Orchard Course: Holes 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 13

Both Hills and Orchard courses Native Wetlands, Identified by split-rail fences, yellow or red stakes with green tops or lines have been declared by a Government Agency is an area entry into and/or play from which is prohibited for environmental reasons.

If it is known or virtually certain that the ball, that has not been found, is in an ESA, the player must, under **penalty of one stroke**, proceed in accordance with **Rule**

**14.3** Dropping a ball in a relief area.

NOTE: If after relief is taken and the split-rail fence still interferes with the players stance or swing, the player now can take further relief from under the Immoveable Obstruction **Rule 16—no additional penalty**.

### **OUT OF BOUNDS/LOST BALL**

Out of bounds on both courses is defined by: White stakes, course side edges of rock or brick course perimeter knee-walls adjoining the residences. If both are present the stakes identify the OB and the knee wall/rock wall define the OB. Relief is not granted for swing/stance. **Stroke and distance penalty or Local Rule E-5**

## **LOCAL RULE E-5 OUT OF BOUNDS/LOST BALL**

When a player's ball has not been found or is known or virtually certain to be out of bounds or lost, the player may proceed as follows rather than proceeding under stroke and distance. **If the player elects to play a provisional ball the following local rule cannot be used.**

For two penalty strokes the player may take relief by dropping a ball in the relief area located in the general area, which includes two club lengths into the fairway. The relief area must not be closer to the hole than the estimated area if the lost ball or the area the ball crossed the boundary edge of the course.

If the ball is lost in the fairway (plugged ball) the relief area is one club length no nearer the hole from the estimated spot where the ball most likely would be. Two stroke penalty

Once the player puts the ball in play the original ball that was lost or likely out of bounds 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 minutes search time.

NOTE: A ball that crosses a public road defined as out of bounds and comes to rest beyond that road is out of bounds, even though it may lie on another part of the course. **Local Rule A-3**

The driving range between Hills # 1 and # 18 is OB defined by white stakes.

## **IMMOVEABLE OBSTRUCTIONS – RULE 16**

All drains located throughout both courses are deemed to be immovable obstructions. Any rock or cement that surround some drains is deemed to be part of the obstruction. Nearest point and one club length **no penalty**.

All interior rock or brick retaining walls are **not immovable obstructions** and deemed to be an integral part of the course—**no relief**.

**Local Rule F-5** Immoveable Obstructions on or Close to Putting Green (e.g., sprinkler heads) is in effect.

If a ball lies in the General Area and an immovable obstruction on or within two club-lengths of the putting green and within two club-lengths of the ball intervenes on the line of play between the ball and the hole, the player may take relief **no penalty** as follows: The ball must be lifted and dropped at the nearest point to where the ball lay that is not nearer the hole, avoids intervention and is not in a penalty or on the putting green.

If the player's ball lies on the putting green and an immovable obstruction within two club-lengths of the putting green intervenes on his line of putt, the player may take relief **no penalty** as follows: The ball must be lifted and placed at the nearest point to where the ball lay that is not nearer the hole, avoids intervention and is not in a penalty area. The ball may be cleaned when lifted.

Exception: A player may not take relief under this Rule if (a) interference by anything other than an immovable obstruction makes the stroke clearly impracticable or (b) interference by an immovable obstruction would occur only through use of a clearly unreasonable stroke or an unnecessarily abnormal stance, swing or direction of play.

## **DROPPING ZONES**

### **Hills Course**

Hole #2 – There is a drop zone located across the penalty area (yellow) as an additional option with a **one-stroke penalty**.

### **Orchard Course**

Hole#3 – There is a drop zone located across the penalty area (yellow) near the cart path as an additional option with a **one-stroke penalty**.

Hole #6 – There is a drop zone located on the fairway side of the hazard (at the end of the fairway) as an additional option for the penalty area (yellow) and not the penalty area (red) with a **one-stroke penalty**.

Hole#7 – The drop zone is the forward teeing ground as an additional option for the penalty area (yellow) with a **one stroke penalty**. BALL MUST BE DROPPED AND NOT TEED

**NOTE: ALL OTHER DROP ZONES ON EITHER COURSE ARE OUT OF PLAY AND IF USED AND NOT RECTIFIED BEFORE TEEING OFF ON THE NEXT HOLE WILL RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION.**

**NOTE: For NCGA qualifiers and Team Play the drop zones on #2 Hills and #3 Orchard are out of play and cannot be used as an additional option. If the drop zone is used and the player does not rectify his play before teeing off on the next hole the player will be disqualified for gaining a significant advantage.**

## **FLOWER BEDS, SHRUBS AND BUSHES**

A ball lying in a defined cutout area on the course where flowers, shrubs and bushes are growing with or without wood chips are not subject to relief. However, if present, the wood chips are defined as loose impediments **Rule 15**.

## **DIRECTIONAL CART SIGNS**

Signs, used to provide direction for golf carts including short white stakes with green tops, are deemed to be Moveable Obstructions **Rule 15**.

## **PENALTY AREA HOLE #2 HILLS COURSE**

When playing from the fairway side of the penalty area, drop zone or forward tee and the ball enters the penalty area (yellow) the two additional options of the penalty area are in effect. Therefore a ball may be dropped within two club lengths from the margin of the penalty area (yellow) where the ball last crossed into the penalty area.

## **CONDITIONS OF THE COMPETITION**

### **DECIDING TIES**

When it is desired to have a sole winner in any competition, the Committee shall announce in advance whether there shall be 1) a playoff or 2) a matching of scorecards, either of which shall be done in accordance with the recommendations contained in Terms of the Competition section 5A (6) of the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf – last nine holes, last six holes, last three holes and the last hole. If still tied repeat the process using the front nine.

### **MGCLH MEMBERS OVER 80**

For all Championships, events and every day play (excluding NCGA Qualifiers, NCGA Team Match Play) a player whose age is 80 or older on the day of the competition may, at his discretion, tee off from the platform tee on Hole #3—Orchard or from the forward tee on Hole #2—Hills, located on the other side of the lake, without any penalty or adjustment to the course handicap.

### **PETS**

Only **SERVICE ANIMALS** are allowed on the course during our tournaments and must remain in the cart or on a leash no longer than six feet, which is the City of Lincoln's leash law. **PENALTY FOR BREACH OF THIS CONDITION IS DISQUALIFICATION**

### **AUDIO**

Music is not to be played by any device during our tournaments. This is just common courtesy provided to the rest of the group. **PENALTY FOR BREACH OF THIS CONTITION IS DISQUALIFICATION**

## **ABNORMAL COURSE` CONDITIONS:**

### **BUNKERS**

Due to the condition of the bunkers on both courses the following two options are available:

Play the ball as it lies in the bunker

Or

The player may lift the ball, rake the bunker within one club length of the original position of the ball and place the ball no nearer the hole. Once the ball is placed the ball is in play.

**NOTE:** If there still isn't any sand within the one club length, the player (with the agreement of his fellow competitor) may find a spot in the bunker not nearer the hole that affords maximum available relief.

### **DALLISGRASS**

If Dallisgrass, within the **GENERAL AREA**, interferes with the player's ball or swing, the player (with approval from another player(s) in the group) may take relief by finding the nearest point no nearer the hole and dropping within one club length. **NO PENALTY**

Notes:

1. Interference does not exist if the Dallisgrass only interferes with the player's stance.
2. **GENERAL AREA** is the new definition for Through the Green. General Area is the area of the course that covers all of the course except for the teeing ground you are playing from, all penalty areas, all bunkers and the putting green of the hole you are playing.



## **REMINDERS:**

Search is now 3 minutes no longer 5 minutes.

Ball putted from the green and hits the flag stick is no longer a penalty.

A partner can no longer stand behind his partner while a stroke is being made.

Ball must stay in the one or two club relief areas and must be redropped if the ball rolls out of the relief area and placed if it rolls out the second time. This also is true for drop zones. No longer can the ball roll additional two club lengths – must remain in the relief area.

Loose impediments may be moved or removed from penalty areas and bunkers.

Player may touch the sand in a penalty area (bunker) away from the ball.

The player can touch the line of putt.

All damage on the putting green can be fixed.

Dropping is from knee height – **NOT SHOULDER HEIGHT**

## **RULES OF HANDICAPPING:**

### **POSTING GUIDELINES**

In order to create equitable play in our tournaments, it is imperative that our membership post their scores accurately even for partial rounds. Upon completion of play (or shortly thereafter), golfers need to go to the NCGA site (in the pro shop or on your computer or smart phone) and post their score – noting the **World Handicap System (WHS)** factors. It has come to the attention of the Board of Directors that we have members who are not posting as well as those who are posting incorrect scores. Therefore, we have created a new posting guideline. If the Board becomes aware of members who are not posting or posting incorrectly, the following process will be followed:

1. The offending golfer will be contacted personally by the Handicap Chairman to confirm the facts and explain the guidelines.
2. The golfer will receive a letter alerting him to the problem.
3. If the problem continues, the player will be suspended from MGCLH tournament play for three months.
4. If, after suspension, the problem occurs again, the player will be dropped from the Men's Club.

Board Approval: **2-25-2020**