

For All MGCLH Member Play and Sponsored Tournaments and 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. As a supplement, the following Local Rules and Conditions, along with additional Local Rules as may be supplied will govern Men's Club Members daily Play and Men's Club tournaments and events. 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 Courses 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 expected is 4 hours and 15 minutes for Hills and 4 hours and 30 minutes for Orchard.

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, they must make every effort to catch up with the Group in front. A Marshall may be called to monitor. 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 than 40 seconds – Warning

A second bad time – 1 stroke penalty

A third bad time – Additional 2 stroke penalty

A fourth bad time – Disqualification

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 scorecard 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 general area – fairway to fairway and rough to rough.

Note: There is no preferred lie relief from perimeter rock/brick walls or perimeter fences. These are boundary objects from which free relief is not allowed.

The player may place the ball only once & once it is placed it is in play Rule 14.2b(2) & Rule 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 1 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 intended 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 fence posts and cables, yellow or red stakes with green tops or lines have been declared by Government Agency as an area entry into and/or play from is prohibited for environmental reasons. The edge of the penalty area is defined as by the course side edge of the fence posts. The stakes are there only to show the presence of a penalty area. They have no other meaning.

If it is known or virtually certain that the ball, that has not been found, is in the 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 fence post or cable 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 or 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 lie, swing or stance. **Stroke and distance penalty or Local Rule E-5.**

The **DRIVING RANGE** between Hills #1 and #18 is OB defined by white stakes.

LOCAL RULE E-5 OUT OF BOUNDS/LOST BALL

When a players' 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. **NOTE: 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 of 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 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**

ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITIONS – RULE 16

DRAINS

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

ROCK WALLS

All interior rock walls are integral objects. THERE IS NO FREE RELIEF. However preferred lie relief (score card length) can be taken when the committee allows.

There is no free relief or preferred lie relief from any perimeter wall or fence. These are boundary objects from which free relief is not allowed.

DALLIS GRASS

If Dallis Grass within the General Area interferes with the player's ball or swing, the player (with approval from other player(s) in the group) may take relief by finding the nearest point not nearer the hole and dropping within one club length. **NO PENALTY**

Note: Interference does not exist if the Dallis Grass only interferes with the players' stance.

Local Rule F-5 Immovable 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 with **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 area or on the putting green.

If the players' 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 with **NO PENALTY** as follows: The ball must be lifted and placed at the nearest point to where to ball lay that is not nearer the hole, avoids intervention and is not in a penalty area. The ball maybe 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 impractical 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 in the area of the forward tee 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 (red) with a **one stroke penalty**.

Hole#7 – The drop zone is the forward teeing ground as an addition option for the penalty area (yellow) with a **one stroke penalty**. BALL MUST BE DROPPED AND NOT TEED. Do not use the women's drop zone located on the green side of the penalty area.

Hole #14 – The optional drop zone is located near the right TEE side of the penalty area. **One stroke penalty**.

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**.

Bunkers

The ball is to be played from the bunkers on both courses as follows:

Play the ball as it lies

OR

Declare the ball unplayable (Rule 19.3) for a ONE stroke penalty. Ball remains in the bunker OR for a total of TWO stroke penalty, the player may take back-on-the-line relief outside the bunker under rule 19.2b. OR for a one stroke penalty play the ball from where it was last hit prior to entering the bunker (Stroke and Distance).

REMEMBER under Rule 12.2a you can remove loose impediments in a bunker which includes any reasonable touching or movement of the sand that happens while doing so.

DIRECTIONAL SIGNS

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

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 3 holes and the last hole. If still tied, then hole score count back from last hole to first hole will be used. (MGCLH Modification).

MGCLH MEMBER 80+ YEARS OLD

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 and 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.

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. The player will be disqualified if he continues to use audio after being notified by another player or official.

COURSE CARE

Directional Signs shall be followed, and NO CARTS shall be driven closer than 30 feet from any green. This includes Qualified Handicapped players.

Players are expected to fill divots, repair pitch marks and rake bunkers.

ATTIRE

No Denim Allowed

HANDICAP AND 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 or USGA site (in the pro shop or on your computer or smartphone) and post their score – noting **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 altering 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 August 2024