

Baberton Golf Club

Local Rules

14 March 2026

THE COURSE

Out of Bounds

A ball is *out of bounds* that is on or beyond a boundary wall or fence or beyond any line of white posts. The area of the quarry and gully between the 3rd and 13th holes and across the 6th hole is an internal out of bounds defined by white posts. **Rule 18.2**

Integral Objects

Walls on the course and bunker linings in their intended position are *integral objects* from which you do not get free relief.

Gates in boundary walls and fences

Closed gates in boundary walls and fences are part of the *boundary object*. Free relief is not allowed from such a gate. An open gate is not, however, treated as part of the *boundary object* and may be closed or moved to a different position.

Penalty Areas

Penalty areas are defined by red stakes. The penalty area to the right of the 6th hole extends to and coincides with the boundary edge.

Ground Under Repair

- Areas encircled by a white line or blue stakes.
- The track crossing the 2nd, 15th, and 16th holes.
- A bunker marked by a blue stake.

Rule 16.1a

Temporary Putting Greens

Areas defined by a broken white line are temporary putting greens. A temporary green not in use during the play of a hole is a *wrong green* in the general area; you must take relief without penalty if your ball is on such a green or the green interferes with the area of your intended stance or swing. **Rules 13.1f and 14.3**

Mats used as Teeing Areas

Where a mat is used for a *teeing area*, the mat defines the area. You must stand on it and place your ball on it for any shot played from it during play of the hole. (A teeing mat on a hole not being played is an *immovable obstruction*.)

Penalty: Loss of hole in match play. Rule 6.1b(2) applies in stroke play.

Mats used as dropping zones

Where an artificial mat is used as a *dropping zone*, the mat defines the relief area and you must place your ball on the mat. The mat is an *immovable obstruction* except when being used as a Dropping Zone.

Dropping Zones

- *Dropping zones* are marked by a green stake. The *relief area* is a *club-length* radius circle, centred on the stake.
- You are not required to stand in the *relief area*.
- The stake is a *movable obstruction*.

Mandatory Dropping Zones

If an *abnormal course condition* is marked with a mandatory dropping zone sign, you must take relief in the nearest *dropping zone*.

SPECIAL RELIEF

Ball deflected by an overhead power line

If you know or are *virtually certain* that your ball hit a power line during the play of the 8th hole, you must replay the stroke using your original or another ball from the spot where that stroke was made. **Rule 14.6.** If you replay the stroke but do so from a *wrong place*, you get the general penalty under **Rule 14.7.** If you don't replay the stroke, you get the *general penalty* and the stroke counts, but you have not played from a *wrong place*.

Protection of young trees identified by a stake

Any young tree identified by a stake (attached or unattached) is a *no play zone*:

- If your ball lies anywhere on the course except in a *penalty area* and it lies on or touches such a tree or such a tree interferes with your area of intended stance or area of intended swing, you must take free relief under **Rule 16.1**
- If your ball lies in a *penalty area*, and such a tree interferes with your intended stance or area of intended swing, you must take penalty relief under **Rule 17.1e**

Paths at the 7th green/8th tee and 9th Tee

If your ball is on or touching the path leading past the 7th green to the 8th tee or the path leading from the 8th green to the 9th tee, or if either of the paths interferes with your stance or area of intended swing, you may, as an additional relief option to **Rule 16.1b**, drop a ball in the nearest *dropping zone*.

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

No Play Zones

You must take relief under **Rules 16.1** or **17.1e** if:

- your ball is in the *no play zone*;
- the zone interferes with your area of intended swing; or
- The zone interferes with your stance when playing your ball outside the *no play zone*.

Rules 2.4, 16.1b and 17.1d

Immovable Obstruction near or on a Putting Green

If there is interference by the *immovable obstruction*, you may take relief under **Rule 16**. But if the *immovable obstruction* is within two *club lengths* of the *putting green* and within two *club lengths* of the ball and both ball and *obstruction* are in a part of the *general area* cut to fairway

height, you have the extra option to take relief if the *obstruction* is on your *line of play*.

If taking relief, you must do so from both physical and *line of play* interference. You may not take relief if the *line of play* is clearly unreasonable.

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

Aeration Holes

If your ball lies in or touches an aeration hole, you may take free relief - under **Rule 16.1b** if your ball is in the *general area* or under **Rule 16.1d** if it is on the *putting green*.

If the ball comes to rest in another aeration hole you may take free relief again under this Local Rule.

You get relief only if your ball is on or touching a hole, not if a hole interferes your stance or area of intended swing or, on the *putting green*, your *line of play*.

Penalty for playing ball from a wrong place in breach of Local Rule: General Penalty under Rule 14.7a.

Seams of cut turf

If your ball lies in or touches a seam of cut turf or a seam interferes with your area of intended swing, you may take free relief - under **Rule 16.1b** if your ball is in the *General Area* or under **Rule 16.1d** if your ball is on the *putting green*. You do not get relief if a seam interferes only with your stance.

All seams within the area of cut turf are treated as the same seam in taking relief. This means that if any seam interferes with your ball after you have dropped it you must proceed under **Rule 14.3c(2)** by dropping a ball again. If there is again interference, you must *place* a ball on the spot where the ball you dropped for a second time first touched the ground even when your ball is still within one *club-length* of the *reference point*.

Protective fence at the 4th tee

If the fence intervenes on your *line of play*, you may drop a ball in the nearer Dropping Zone without penalty unless

- the original ball is further from the hole than the higher Dropping Zone;
- it is unreasonable to play directly towards the hole;
- You could not reach the fence with a shot; or
- anything else makes a stroke impossible.

Rule 14.7a

TRANSPORTATION

Motorised transportation

During a round, neither you or your caddie may ride on any form of motorised transportation unless authorised or later approved by the *Committee*. You may, however, if you are about to play or have just played under *stroke and distance* ride on motorised transportation to get to and/or from the place you last played from.

Penalty for Breach of Local Rule: the general penalty for each hole during which there is a breach. If the breach occurs between the play of two holes, it applies to the next hole.

ADVERSE CONDITIONS

Suspension and resumption of play

The signals for suspension and resumption of play are:

1 prolonged note of a horn which signals imminent danger. You must discontinue play immediately, *mark* your ball and make your way to the nearest place of safety and await further instruction from an official.

3 consecutive notes of a horn which signals a non-dangerous situation requiring suspension of play. You may stop immediately or complete a hole already started but you must stay in position for further instructions.

2 consecutive notes of a horn which signals the resumption of play. You must restart play immediately the horn is sounded. **Rule 5.7**

TEMPORARY RULES FOR ADVERSE CONDITIONS

Any or all of the following temporary local rules may be introduced by the Committee for as long as the adverse conditions requiring them persist. They are not in force at any other time.

Preferred Lies

If your ball is on or touching part of the general area cut to fairway height or less you may take free relief once by placing a ball within 6"/15 cms of the spot of the original ball in the general area and not nearer the hole.

Lift, Clean and Replace

When your ball lies in the general area, the ball may be lifted, cleaned and replaced without penalty. You must mark the spot of the ball before lifting it and it must be replaced on its original spot. **Rules 14.1 and 14.2.**

Relief from deep ruts

A deep rut caused by vehicle traffic anywhere on the course other than a penalty area is treated as ground under repair. If your ball lies in it, or the rut interferes with your normal area of intended swing or stance, you may take relief under **Rule 16.1b**. A rut is considered to be deep if it makes it impossible to bring the club face to the ball unimpeded by the edges of the rut or which causes your stance to be significantly imbalanced.

You get the general penalty for a breach of a Local Rule unless otherwise stated