Caldy CHC

[CHC ORG Temp Local Rules Nov 2026]

TEMPORARY LOCAL RULES

These Temporary Local Rules take effect during the periods notified to members.

PREFERRED LIES (R&A Model Local Rule E-3)

When any part of a player's ball touches part of the **general area** cut to fairway height or less, the player may take free relief once by placing the original ball or another ball in and playing it from this **relief area**

- Reference Point: Spot of the original ball, which must be marked before lifting and may be cleaned.
- Size of Relief Area Measured from Reference Point: Within **six inches** from the reference point, **but** with these limits:
- Limits on Location of Relief Area
  - Must not be nearer the hole than the reference point, and
  - Must be in the **general area**.

In proceeding under this Local Rule, the player must choose a spot to place the ball and use the procedures for replacing a ball under Rules 14.2b(2) and 14.2e.
Penalty for Playing Ball from a Wrong Place in Breach of Local Rule : General Penalty Under Rule 14.7a.

AERATION HOLES (R&A Model Local Rule E-4)

If a player's ball lies in or touches an aeration hole :

(a) Ball in **general area**. The player may take free relief under Rule 16.1b. If the ball comes to rest in another aeration hole the player may take relief again under this Local Rule.
(b) Ball on **putting green**. The player may take free relief under Rule 16.1d

But interference does not exist if the aeration hole only interferes with the player's stance or, on the putting green, on the player's 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 (R&A Model Local Rule F-7)

If a player's ball lies in or touches a seam of cut turf or a seam interferes with the player's area of intended swing

a) Ball in **General Area**. The player may take free relief under Rule 16.1b
b) Ball on **Putting Green**.The player may take free relief under Rule 16.1d

But interference does not exist if the seam only interferes with the player's stance.

All seams within the area of cut turf are treated as the same seam in taking relief. This means that if a player has interference from any seam after dropping the ball, the player must proceed as required under Rule14.3c(2) even when the ball is still within one-club length of the reference point.

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

IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS – Stakes and Ropes (R&A Model Local Rule F-18)

All stakes and ropes used by the Greenkeeper to rope-off areas of the course in winter are treated as **Immovable Obstructions** from which free relief is allowed under **Rule 16.1**. Relief is NOT allowed to be taken under **Rule 15.2** (Movable Obstructions). If a player moves the stake or rope and plays a stroke, this is in breach of **Rule 8.1a** and the **General Penalty** applies. The penalty can be avoided if the stake/rope is returned to its original position before making the stroke.

Interference from the stake and/or rope only exists when, in the general area

- The player's ball touches a stake or rope, or
- A stake or rope physically interferes with the player's area of intended stance or swing.

If the stake or rope is close enough to distract the player but does not meet the above interference requirements, there is no interference under this Rule.

Procedure for Free Relief
If a player's ball is in the general area and there is interference by stake or rope, the player may take free relief by dropping the original ball or another ball in this relief area (see Rule 14.3):

- Reference Point: The nearest point of complete relief in the general area.
- Size of Relief Area Measured from Reference Point: One club-length **but** with these limits:
- Limits on Location of Location of Relief Area
    - Must be in the general area,
    - Must not be nearer the hole than the reference point, and
    - There must be complete relief from all interference by the stake and rope.

Penalty for breach of Local Rule: General Penalty.

COMPULSORY USE OF FAIRWAY MATS (R&A Model Local Rule E-12)

When a player's ball lies in a part of the general area cut to fairway height or less and a putter is not being used for the stroke, the player must take free relief by lifting the original ball and placing the original ball or another ball on an artificial mat and play it from there. The mat must be placed on top of the spot where the ball came to rest.

If a ball when placed rolls off the mat, the player must try to place it a second time. If the ball again does not stay on the mat, the mat must be moved to the nearest spot, not nearer the hole, where the ball will come to rest on the mat when placed.

If the ball on the mat is accidentally moved before a stroke is made, there is no penalty and the ball must be placed again on the mat.

If a tee is used to secure the mat into the ground, the ball must not be placed on the tee.

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

Competitions & Handicaps Committee - November 2026