

LOCAL RULES FOR THE CLUBS AT ST. JAMES

- Out of Bounds is defined by white stakes with black tops.
- Penalty areas are defined by red and yellow stakes.
- Please repair ball marks on greens, rake bunkers and replace divots.
- Please keep carts on paths at all times when around tees and greens.
- All yardages are measured to the center of the green.
- Proper golf attire is required at all times.
- Improved roads are Out of Bounds.

Player must play a ball, under penalty of one stroke, as near as possible to the spot from which the original ball was played or use the alternative to stroke and distance for lost ball or ball out of bounds (Model Local Rule E-5).

The following additional **Local Rules** are also in effect:

[Alternate to Stroke and Distance for Lost Ball or Ball Out of Bounds](#)

A provisional ball is allowed when a ball may be lost (other than in a penalty area) or may be out of bounds. Not playing a provisional ball significantly increases issues with pace of play. Therefore, the Clubs have adopted an extra relief option that allows a player to play on without returning to the location of the previous stroke.

For the full rule explanation and model (E-5), scroll down to page 5.

[Embedded Ball](#)

"General Area": When course conditions exist that might interfere with proper playing of the game, including mud and extreme wetness, warranting relief for an embedded ball, this rule permits free relief by determining a reference point right behind where the ball is embedded, using one club length, no closer to the hole and by dropping in that relief area. The drop must be in the General Area.

[Distance Measuring Devices](#)

A player may obtain distance information by using a device that measures distance only. However, if, during a stipulated round a player uses a distance measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect their play (i.e. gradient, wind speed, temperature, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 4-3a and must take a 2-stroke penalty. The 2nd time there is a breach of Rule 4-3a including an equipment violation, the player is disqualified, regardless of whether any such additional functions are actually used.

Aeration Holes

"General Area" A ball which 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 to the hole. The ball, when dropped, must first strike a part of the course through the green. On the putting green, the player shall place the ball at the nearest spot, not nearer the hole, which avoids the situation.

Sandy Areas with Blue Stakes

Sandy areas defined by a blue stake are not considered bunkers (under the Rules of Golf, a "waste area" or "waste bunker" is part of the General Area and a player whose ball lies in such an area may ground their club lightly in, or remove loose impediments (e.g., gravel) from the area.

Immovable Obstructions Close to Putting Greens

Relief, without penalty, may be taken from any irrigation head, if the irrigation head lies within 2 club-lengths of the putting green and the ball lies within 2 club-lengths of the irrigation head. The ball must be lifted and dropped at the nearest point where the ball lay that (a) is not nearer to the hole, (b) avoids the intervention, and (c) is not in a hazard or on the putting green.

Note: On Hole 18 of The Founders Club, relief, without penalty, may be taken from the bulkheads along the green if the ball comes to rest against or interferes with the player's stance or intended swing.

Ground Under Repair

Ground Under Repair is normally defined by white lines or white stakes. If defined by white lines, the line itself is in the Ground Under Repair. Even if not marked, the following is considered Ground Under Repair; materials piled for removal, a hole made by a green's keeper, fire ant beds and mounds, French drains (trenches filled with stones or the like). The ball may be dropped within one club-length, no closer to the hole, without penalty.

Drop Areas

Conditional Ball Rule Has Been Rescinded

Designated drop areas may be used **only when a player fails to clear a penalty area on their second shot or any shot after that.**

- Penalty areas are marked with **yellow stakes and/or yellow lines.**
- Drop areas are marked with **white paint or a "Drop Area" sign.**

Drop Area Locations:

The Reserve Club: Holes 7, 10, 18, across the penalty area, fairway side of cart path.

The Founders Club: Hole 7, across the penalty area, fairway side of cart path.

The Members and Players Club – None

RULE SUMMARY

- A player **may not** use a Drop Zone after hitting their **tee shot** into a penalty area.
- To use the drop zone, the player must first attempt a **second or subsequent shot** that fails to clear the penalty area.
- Using a Drop Zone carries a penalty of **two strokes**.

EXAMPLES

Example 1 --- Founders #7

A player drives their ball into the penalty area. Their options are:

- Play the ball as it lies for no penalty, or
- Replay from the teeing area (1 penalty stroke), or
- Play back in line from the flag through the point the ball last crossed the penalty area (1 penalty stroke).

If the player's next stroke does not clear the penalty area, they may use the Drop Zone.

Stroke Summary:

- 1 – Drive into Penalty Area
- 2 – Penalty stroke (if re-tee or back online)
- 3 – Next attempt; if it fails the Drop Zone becomes available
- 4&5 – Two stroke penalty in Drop Zone
- 6 – Shot from Drop Zone

Example 2 --- Reserve #18

A player successfully drives ball to fairway and lays up short of the penalty area with their second shot. Their **third** shot fails to clear the penalty area, the player may use the Drop Zone.

Stroke Summary:

- 1 – Drive
- 2 – Layup
- 3 – Shot into Penalty Area
- 4 & 5 – Drop Zone (2 stroke penalty)
- 6 – Shot from Drop Zone

Example 3

A player attempts to cross the penalty area with their **second** shot and fails.

Stroke Summary:

- 1 – Drive
- 2 – 2nd shot into Penalty Area
- 3&4 – Drop Zone
- 5 – Next shot from Drop Zone

Reminder

Drop Zones are **optional**.

Players may choose to use the standard penalty relief for one penalty stroke in lieu of the Drop Zone by:

- Replaying the shot (Stroke and Distance), or
- Dropping back on the line from where the ball last crossed into the penalty area.

Provisional Ball (added for clarity)

A provisional ball is only used when the player believes their ball may be OUT OF BOUNDS or LOST in an area of the course that is NOT in a penalty area. For additional information refer to Rule 18.3 in the Rules of Golf for guidance on playing a provisional ball.

02/2026

E-5 Alternative to Stroke and Distance for Lost Ball or Ball Out of Bounds

Purpose. When a provisional ball has not been played, significant issues with pace of play can result for a player needing to take stroke-and-distance relief for a ball that is out of bounds or cannot be found. The purpose of this Local Rule is to allow a committee to provide an extra relief option that allows a player to play on without returning to the location of the previous stroke.

The Local Rule is appropriate for general play where golfers are playing casual rounds or playing their own competitions. The Local Rule is not appropriate for competitions limited to highly skilled players (that is, professional competitions and elite amateur competitions). For guidance on when and how this Local Rule may be used in order for scores to be submitted for handicapping purposes, consult the rules or recommendations contained within the Handicap System operating in the local jurisdiction.

Where a committee has introduced such a Local Rule for general play, and removes it for competitions, it should ensure that all players are aware of this before play begins.

A Committee may introduce such a Local Rule for all play on the course or only for one or two specific holes where it may be especially useful (for example, where players are unable to see the landing area and therefore may not know whether or not to play a provisional ball).

This option allows the player to drop in a large area between the point where the ball is estimated to have come to rest or gone out of bounds and the edge of the fairway of the hole being played that is **not nearer the hole**.

The player gets two penalty strokes when using this relief option. This means that the relief is comparable to what could have been achieved if the player had taken stroke-and-distance relief.

This Local Rule cannot be used for an unplayable ball, or for a ball that is known or virtually certain to be in a penalty area.

If a provisional ball is played and neither the original ball nor the provisional ball can be found, then the Local Rule may be applied for the provisional ball that cannot be found.

Model Local Rule E-5

“When a player’s ball has not been found or is *known or virtually certain* to be *out of bounds*, the player may proceed as follows rather than proceeding under *stroke and distance*.

For **two (2) penalty strokes**, the player may take relief by *dropping* the original ball or another ball in this *relief area*
(see Rule 14.3):

Two Estimated Reference Points:

a. **Ball Reference Point:** The point where the original ball is estimated to have:

- Come to rest on the *course*, or
- Last crossed the edge of the *course* boundary to go *out of bounds*.

b. **Fairway Reference Point:** The point of fairway of the hole being played that is nearest to the ball reference point, but is **not nearer the hole** than the ball reference point.

For purposes of this Local Rule, “fairway” means any area of grass in the *general area* that is cut to fairway height or less.

If a ball is estimated to be *lost* on the *course* or last crossed the edge of the *course* boundary short of the fairway, the fairway reference point may be a grass path or a teeing ground for the hole being played cut to fairway height or less.

Size of Relief Area Based on Reference Points: Anywhere between:

- A line from the *hole* through the ball reference point (and within two *club-lengths* to the outside of that line), and
- A line from the *hole* through the fairway reference point (and within two *club-lengths* to the fairway side of that line).

But with these limits:

Limits on Location of Relief Area:

- Must be in the *general area*, and
- Must not be nearer the *hole* than the ball reference point.

Once the player puts a ball *in play* under this Local Rule:

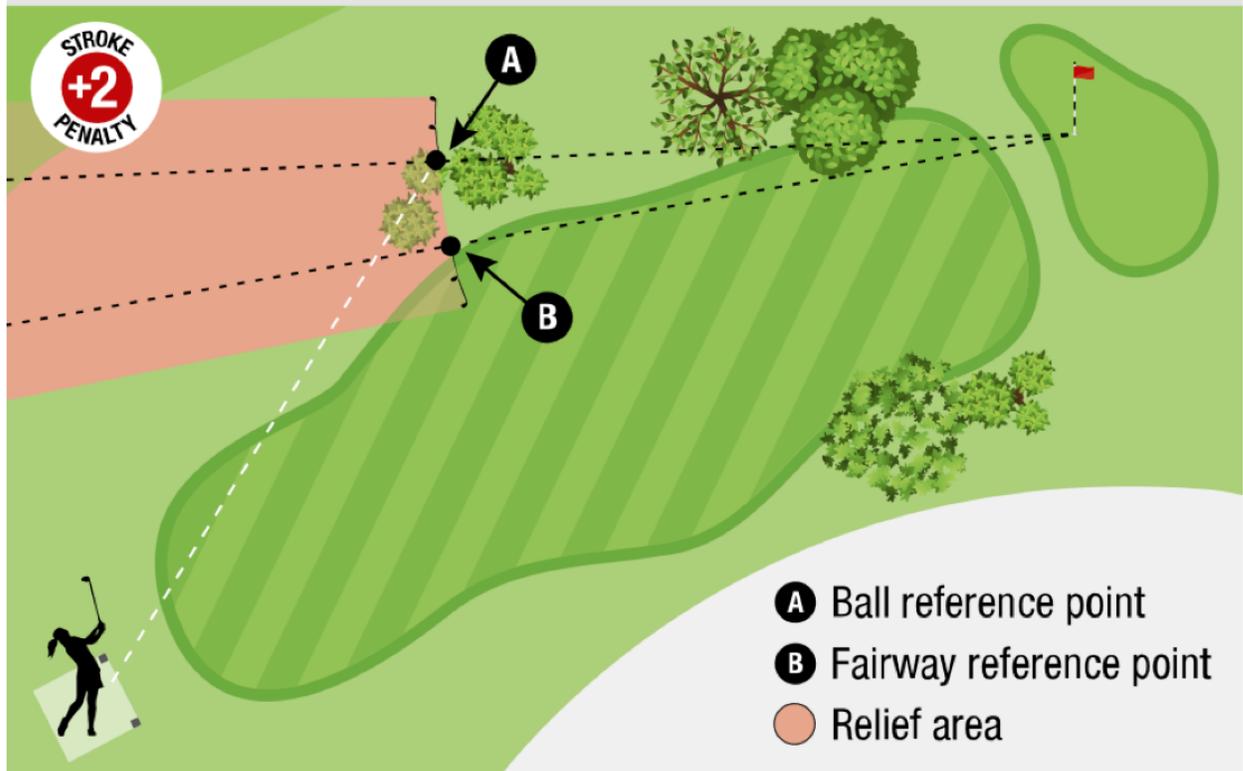
- The original ball that was *lost* or *out of bounds* is no longer *in play* and must not be played.
- This is true even if the ball is found on the *course* before the end of the three-minute search time (see Rule 6.3b).

But the player may not use this option to take relief for the original ball when:

- That ball is *known or virtually certain* to have come to rest in a *penalty area*, or
- The player has played another ball provisionally under penalty of *stroke and distance* (see Rule 18.3).

A player may use this option to take relief for a provisional ball that has not been found or is known or virtually certain to be out of bounds.

MLR E-5 DIAGRAM 1: BALL NOT FOUND



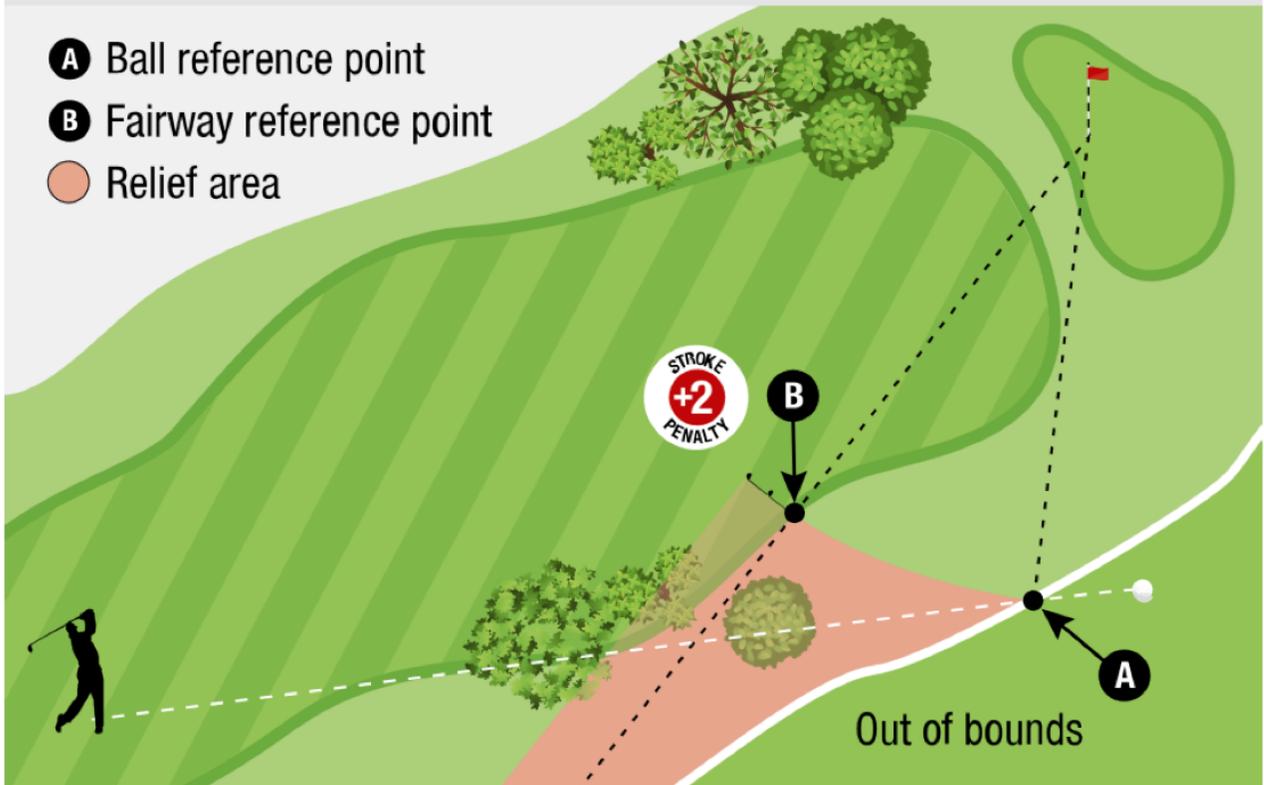
When a player's ball has not been found, the player may take stroke-and-distance relief, or when Model Local Rule E-5 is introduced, the player has the additional option to drop a ball in and play from the relief area described below for two penalty strokes:

Reference Points	Size of Relief Area	Limits on Relief Area
<p>A. Ball Reference Point: The point where the original ball is estimated to have come to rest on the course (point A)</p> <p>B. Fairway Reference Point: The point of fairway of the hole being played (point B) that is nearest to the ball reference point, but is not nearer the hole than the ball reference point</p>	<p>Anywhere between:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A line from the hole through the ball reference point (point A) (and within two club-lengths to the outside of that line), and A line from the hole through the fairway reference point (point B) (and within two club-lengths to the fairway side of that line) 	<p>The relief area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must not be nearer the hole than the ball reference point, and Must be in the general area

Player Notes:

As the relief area is likely to be very large, the ball could roll a considerable distance from the spot where it first strikes the ground and not need to be dropped again.

MLR E-5 DIAGRAM 2: BALL OUT OF BOUNDS



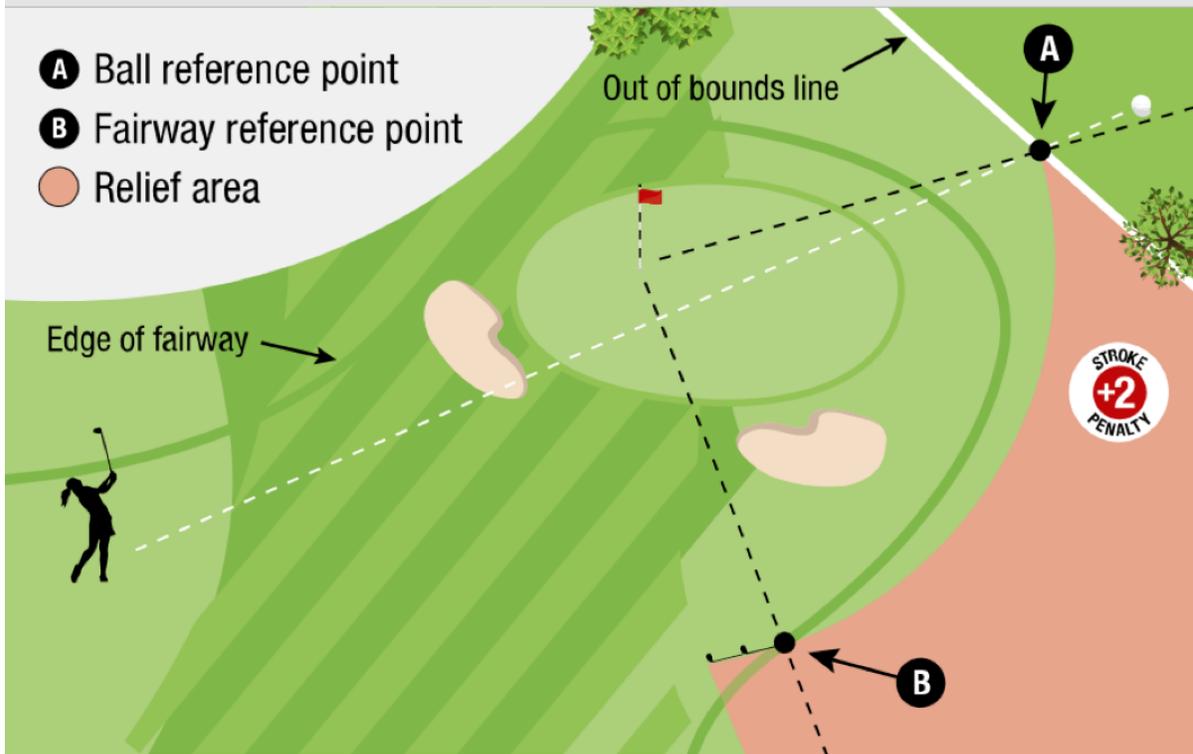
When a player's ball is known or virtually certain to be out of bounds, the player may take stroke-and-distance relief, or when Model Local Rule E-5 is introduced, the player has the additional option to drop a ball in and play from the relief area described below for two penalty strokes:

Reference Point	Size of Relief Area	Limits on Relief Area
<p>A. Ball Reference Point: The point where the original ball is estimated to have last crossed the edge of the course boundary to go out of bounds (point A)</p> <p>B. Fairway Reference Point: The point of fairway of the hole being played (point B) that is nearest to the ball reference point, but is not nearer the hole than the ball reference point</p>	<p>Anywhere between:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A line from the hole through the ball reference point (point A) (and within two club-lengths to the outside of that line but still on the course), and • A line from the hole through the fairway reference point (point B) (and within two club-lengths to the fairway side of that line) 	<p>The relief area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must not be nearer the hole than the ball reference point, and • Must be in the general area

Player Notes:

As the relief area is likely to be very large, the ball could roll a considerable distance from the spot where it first strikes the ground and not need to be dropped again.

MLR E-5 DIAGRAM 3: BALL NOT FOUND OR OUT OF BOUNDS CLOSE TO GREEN



When a player's ball has not been found or is known or virtually certain to be out of bounds, the player may take stroke-and-distance relief, or when Model Local Rule E-5 is introduced, the player has the additional option to drop a ball in and play from the relief area described below for two penalty strokes:

Reference Points	Size of Relief Area	Limits on Relief Area
<p>A. Ball Reference Point: The point where the original ball is estimated to have come to rest on the course or last crossed the edge of the course boundary to go out of bounds (point A)</p> <p>B. Fairway Reference Point: The point of fairway of the hole being played (point B) that is nearest to the ball reference point, but is not nearer the hole than the ball reference point</p>	<p>Anywhere between:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A line from the hole through the ball reference point (point A) (and within two club-lengths to the outside of that line), and A line from the hole through the fairway reference point (point B) (and within two club-lengths to the fairway side of that line) 	<p>The relief area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must not be nearer the hole than the ball reference point, and Must be in the general area

Player Notes:

As the relief area is likely to be very large, the ball could roll a considerable distance from the spot where it first strikes the ground and not need to be dropped again.