



Local Rules and Clarifications

1. Purpose

To ensure common understanding of the Rules of Golf in Wildwinds-sanctioned events and handicap-relevant rounds, the Wildwinds Competition Committee is charged with documenting and clarifying Wildwinds Local Rules, as well as Golf Canada/R&A/USGA Rules interpretations as they apply to Wildwinds.

The following outlines Local Rules applied to handicap-relevant rounds played at Wildwinds, as well as Wildwinds-sanctioned events (including Match Play and Club Championship tournaments). Furthermore, this document aims to provide clarification for common questions and situations encountered at Wildwinds.

This document will be revised over time, as additional situations arise requiring clarification as to remove confusion or ambiguity.

2. Rules of Golf

All handicap-relevant rounds and Wildwinds-sanctioned events shall follow Golf Canada/R&A/USGA Rules of Golf, unless otherwise noted below or explicitly defined as part of an individual event.

It should be noted that local rules may be imposed or revoked for individual Wildwinds-sanctioned events, at the discretion of the event coordinator. These modifications will be clearly communicated.

The Rules of Golf, including common questions and interpretations, may be found at <https://www.golfcanada.ca/rules-of-golf/>

3. Wildwinds Local Rules

Wildwinds has implemented the following Local Rules, supplemental to the Golf Canada/R&A/USGA Rules of Golf.

In absence of an event official, disagreements over rule-application should be discussed after the round is completed. In such instances, a player should play two balls to complete a hole – one ball based on one rule interpretation, and one ball based on the other. Both scores should be recorded, with the accepted score to be determine following the round, after consultation with an event official.

Additional information regarding the hazard and out of bounds areas of the course may be found using the map included in the appendix of this document.

1. Out of Bounds ("White Stakes")

- a. Out of bounds is defined by white stakes. In the absence of white stakes, out of bounds is defined by wood/wire fencing.
- b. Out of bounds areas include:
 - i. Beyond the wooden fence on the left side of #1 and behind #1 green
 - ii. Beyond the wooden/wire fence on the left side of #14
 - iii. Beyond the wooden/wire fence beyond #15 green
 - iv. Beyond the wooden/wire fence on the left side of #16
 - v. Beyond the wooden/wire fence on the left side of #18 green
- c. Players electing to take the standard "Stroke-and Distance" penalty must play a provisional shot prior to searching for their original ball.
- d. In addition to typical Stroke-and-Distance penalty (i.e., replaying from the previous spot +1 penalty stroke), players have the option of dropping in an area between the point at which the ball crossed out of bounds and a point up to two club lengths into the fairway, no closer to the hole. This relief results in a 2-stroke penalty. For example, a tee shot (shot 1) hit out of bounds may be placed up to two club lengths into the fairway, no closer to the hole, and the player will be hitting their 4th shot. Further clarification on this relief option is available at <https://www.golfcanada.ca/articles/local-rule-alternative-stroke/> as well as <https://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/rules-hub/rules-modernization/major-changes/golfs-new-rules-stroke-and-distance.html>
- e. Players must decide which relief option they wish to take prior to playing any provisional (or not). Players may not (for example) play a provisional, then elect to take option D instead.
- f. Players may not move any impeding object (stakes, fence, etc.) marking an out of bounds area in order to play an in-bounds ball.

2. Lateral Hazards (“Red Stakes”)

- a. Lateral Hazards are marked by red stakes. In the absence of red stakes (and for the purpose of removing ambiguity), the following areas are considered Lateral Hazards:
 - i. Any pond, river, or other water which is not “casual water” or “ground under repair”
 - ii. Any wooded area representing the northern and northwestern boundary of the course. For example:
 1. Hole 2: Woods/Weeds left of the cart path for entire length of hole
 2. Hole 10: Woods left of the fairway and immediately behind the green
 3. Hole 11: Woods left of the cart path
 4. Hole 12: Woods left of the cart path
 5. Hole 13: Woods left of the card path
 6. Hole 14: Woods right of the fairway
- b. To further avoid ambiguity, the following areas are **not** considered Lateral Hazards:
 - i. Fescue or naturalized weedy/grassy areas
 - ii. Wooded areas **inside the outermost boundaries** of the course. For example:
 1. Hole 7: Woods/Weeds immediately behind green
 2. Hole 8: Woods/Weeds right of the teeing area and fairway
 3. Hole 9: Woods/Weeds either side of the fairway and behind the green
 4. Hole 10: Woods right of the fairway and green
 5. Hole 11: Woods/weeds on the right side of the teeing area and behind the green (on the right side of the cart path)
 6. Hole 12: Woods/Weeds right of the teeing area and fairway
 7. Hole 13: Woods/Weeds behind the green (right of the cart path)
- c. Standard relief options apply for Lateral Hazards.
- d. For areas NOT deemed a Lateral Hazard, refer to the “Lost Balls” section for additional guidance.

3. Lost Balls

- a. Balls lost anywhere other than an out-of-bounds or lateral hazard area may be played using one of two options:
 - i. Standard stroke-and-distance penalty (i.e., replaying the previous shot, plus 1 penalty stroke). If a lost ball is suspected, the player should hit a provisional ball in accordance with the Rules of Golf.
 - ii. (Similar to Out-of-Bounds local rule, above) Dropping up to two club lengths into the fairway for a 2-stroke penalty. Further clarification on this relief option is available at <https://www.golfcanada.ca/articles/local-rule-alternative-stroke/> as well as <https://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/rules-hub/rules-modernization/major-changes/golfs-new-rules-stroke-and-distance.html>

4. Bunkers

- a. Balls landing in areas disturbed by previous players (and not re-raked) or which are otherwise not maintained (e.g., erosion due to heavy rainfall) may be placed in an undisturbed area of the bunker, no closer to the hole.
- b. If a maintained area does not exist within the bunker, a spot may be raked and ball replaced.
- c. Balls landing in bunker areas not disturbed by previous players (e.g., animal footprints, etc.) may not be replaced, raked, etc.
- d. Any decision for moving, raking, and/or replacing a ball in the bunker should be agreed upon with your playing partner(s).

5. Immoveable Obstructions

- a. Hole 4/18: Pump House, between fairways (situated near the pond):
 - i. Players may take full stance and swing relief, no closer to the hole.
 - ii. Players may **not** take line-of-sight relief
 - iii. Players may elect to take an “unplayable” penalty, if desired.
- b. Hole 18: Pump House, middle of fairway
 - i. Players must play the shot as it lies. No stance, swing, or line-of-sight relief is allowed.
 - ii. Players may elect to take an “unplayable” penalty, if desired.

4. FAQs and Interpretations

The following are interpretations of the Golf Canada/R&A/USGA Rules of Golf and Local Rules, as they apply to Wildwinds specifically. These interpretations are meant to provide context for situations occasionally encountered while playing at Wildwinds.

1. Per USGA Rule 13 – Flagstick removal
 - a. Players may elect to remove (or not remove) the flagstick prior to holing a putt.
2. Per USGA Rule 19 – Unplayable balls
 - a. Unplayable balls must be found (i.e., they cannot be “Lost Balls”)
 - b. Unplayable balls may be dropped within two club lengths of the original spot, no closer to the hole. Players may also move as far back as desired on a straight line from the hole through the original spot and drop, or replay their shot from the original location.
3. Per USGA Rule 16.3 – Embedded Balls
 - a. “Embedded” balls are balls stuck/sunk/otherwise implanted in their original landing spot.
 - b. Balls may only be considered “embedded” on the fairway of the hole being played
 - c. Embedded balls may be removed, cleaned, and placed within one club length of the original spot.
4. Per USGA Rule 14 – Lift, Clean, and Place
 - a. Players may not lift, clean, and place balls unless the course is “cart-path-only” or explicitly authorized by the Competition Committee prior to the round or competition.
 - b. Lift, Clean, and Place rules only apply to balls landing on the fairway of the hole currently being played.

5. Appendix

Wildwinds Boundary Map

The following map is intended to illustrate the location “Red-Stake” Lateral Hazards and “White-Stake” Out-of-Bounds areas. The map is for illustrative purposes only, and the exact locations of the boundary lines may vary due to course conditions.

