‘26-‘27 WINTER MATCH PLAY LOCAL RULES

Golf Canada Rules of Golf (January 2023 Edition) govern play except as they may be modified by the “Preferred Lies” and Local rules.

“Preferred Lies.” Balls may be lifted, cleaned, and placed without penalty on all areas mown at fairway and rough height, but not in Naturalized Areas or in Penalty Areas. Replace balls in the “relief area” within 1 scorecard length in any direction, no closer to the hole. The same relief is available in bunkers, and you may rake the bunker before replacing.

Bunkers: Rule 12 applies, but you may lift, clean, RAKE and place before making a shot from a bunker while under Preferred Lies. If there is temporary water in the bunker, every effort should be made to take relief *within* the bunker, no closer to the hole (no penalty). To take relief outside the bunker is a 1 shot penalty under rule 16.1.c. Only if there is no *reasonable* stance within the bunker, and both players agree, may relief be taken *outside* the bunker with no penalty.

Standing Water on Putting Green: take relief using Rule 16.1d, nearest point of relief on the green, no closer to the hole, no penalty.

“Naturalized Areas” of tall grass are not penalty areas unless specifically marked as such. Balls hit into these areas are difficult to find, and it is recommended that a provisional ball is announced and played to aid pace of play.

Penalty Areas and Out of Bounds: to determine if you are in any of these penalty areas, please use this order of test: 1. Line painted on turf. 2. If line on turf is not visible, **line of mower cut** indicates intended boundary of penalty area.

White Stakes with Red Tops: indicates a localized Ground Under Repair condition.

Doubt as to ruling: In match play, you may decide issues by agreement. You may not agree to ignore any rule or penalty that applies.

Rule 18.3 Provisional Ball. Procedure if a ball may be lost outside a penalty area or may be out of bounds. To save time the player may play another ball provisionally. **The player must announce to his marker or a fellow competitor that he intends to play a provisional ball.**

Local rule to allow for “Alternative to Stroke and Distance.” If a provisional ball was not played, and a ball is then determined to be lost or out of bounds, you may follow this procedure to save the time of returning to the spot of the original shot: Determine a spot where a ball went out of bounds or is likely to be lost outside a penalty area. Find nearest fairway edge, no closer to the hole and drop ball within 2 club lengths. **Penalty 2 strokes.** On par 3s with no fairway, the ball may be dropped anywhere on the hole, no closer to the hole. **See diagram Appendix 1.**

Out of bounds is defined by boundary fences, white lines and white stakes. The paved driveway, driving range, parking lot and all pavements immediately adjacent to the clubhouse are also out of bounds. The left side of hole #2 and the right side of hole #7 is out of bounds. The left side of hole #9 is out of bounds until the penalty area begins at the red stakes. The maintenance road on the right side of hole #10 is out of bounds. The right side of hole #11 is out of bounds. The right side of hole #12 is out of bounds until the penalty area begins at the red stakes.

French Drains (continuous slight depressions) that cross many holes are classified as **“Abnormal Course Conditions”** and relief may be taken under rule **16.1.**

Use of Distance-Measuring Devices For all play at this event, a player may obtain distance information by using a device that measures distance and/or slope. Information from such devices may be shared between competitors.

The fairway yardage stones are immovable obstructions under Rule 16.1

Local immovable obstructions: Yardage stones, constructed pathways, bridges, and stairways, tee and hole sponsor signs, sprinkler heads, sprinkler control boxes, flower beds and staked trees. Immovable obstruction **Rule 16.1**. Drop within one club length of the closest point of relief, but not nearer the hole. No penalty.

HOLE #13. If a ball is hit into a penalty area on #13 the competitor has 3 options: **1.** Replay the shot from the original location under “stroke and distance.” **2.** Play a ball from the defined drop area (even if that is closer to the hole) or **3.** proceed under **Rule 17.1** using 2 club lengths, or “back on line” relief. **The right side of 13 is a Red Penalty Area (not White Out of Bounds). All 3 options, penalty 1 stroke.** A player may proceed under **Rule 17** ONLY if the ball CLEARLY has last entered the penalty area at a point that can be identified by the player and his marker. The green artificial turf mat defines the **drop area**.

Updated: NOVEMBER 2026

See Appendix 1 and 2 for “Alternative to Stroke and Distance” and posting scores for conceded holes.

Appendix 1: Alternative to Stoke and Distance Local Rule

GOLF'S NEW RULES: **STROKE AND DISTANCE**

A new Local Rule provides an alternative to stroke-and-distance relief for a ball that is lost outside a penalty area or out of bounds, effective January 1, 2019.

BALL OUT OF BOUNDS



LOST BALL



If the Local Rule is in effect, you can still take stroke-and-distance relief, but you now have the following additional option that comes with a penalty of two strokes:

A **DETERMINE SPOT** where your ball went out of bounds (left diagram) or is likely to be lost (right diagram).

B **FIND NEAREST FAIRWAY EDGE** no closer to the hole.

C **DROP YOUR BALL IN SHADED AREA** as defined on one side by a line from the hole through point A and on the other side by a line from the hole through point B, and not nearer the hole. The relief area is extended on both sides by two club-lengths.

This Local Rule is not intended for higher levels of play, such as professional or elite amateur level competitions.

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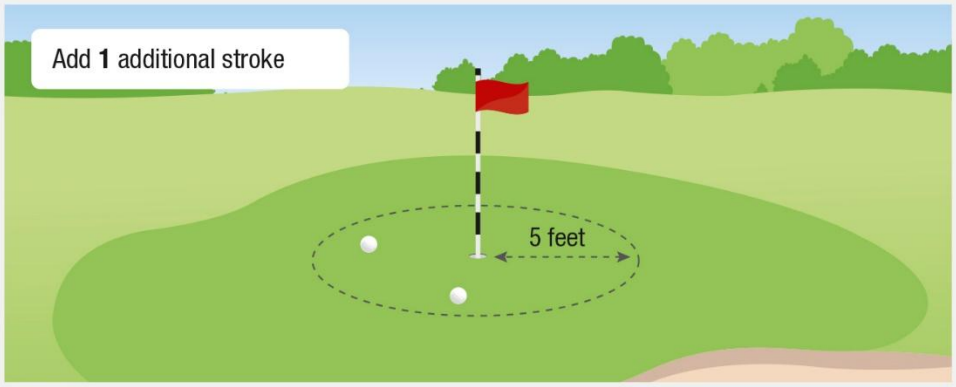
Appendix 2: What Score do I post if I am conceded a stroke in Match Play?

If a player starts but does not complete a hole or is conceded a stroke, that player shall record (for handicap purposes) their most likely score. The most likely score consists of the number of strokes already taken (including any penalty strokes incurred during play of the hole) plus the number of strokes the player would most likely require to complete the hole from that position.

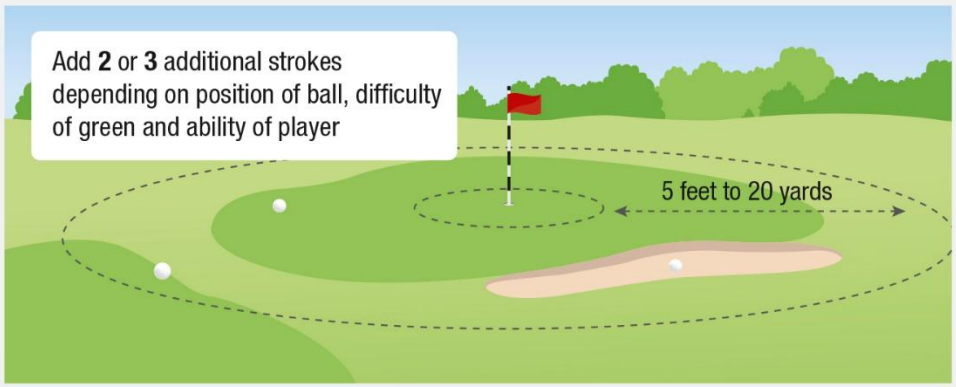
Most Likely Scores should be determined on any hole in accordance with the following guidelines:

DIAGRAM 3.3: MOST LIKELY SCORE WHEN A HOLE IS STARTED BUT PLAYER DOES NOT HOLE OUT

▼ If the ball lies on the putting green, no more than 5 feet (1.5 metres) from the hole.



▼ If the ball lies between 5 feet (1.5 metres) and 20 yards (20 metres) from the hole.



▼ If the ball lies more than 20 yards (20 metres) from the hole.

