



## FOX HOLLOW MEN'S CLUB COMMON RULES OF PLAY AND LOCAL RULES

All Fox Hollow Men's Club events are played under the rules of golf defined by the United States Golf Association except as defined by the **Local Rules** shown below.

The following defines how to handle some of the most common rules situations we will encounter:

### **COLORED STAKES & LINES:**

A *regular* penalty area is defined by **yellow stakes** or lines. A *lateral* penalty area defined by **red stakes** or lines.

If your ball is resting on the line defining the penalty area....you're in it. The new rules of golf currently in effect no longer assign a penalty for moving loose impediments or grounding your club in a penalty area.

You have three choices for regular penalty areas (yellow stakes):

1. If the ball is playable, play it with no penalty.
2. If it's not playable, find the spot where your ball last crossed the penalty area margin. Keep that spot between you and the hole. You can drop your ball anywhere on that imaginary line, as far back as you like. You must drop behind the penalty area even if your ball landed on the other side and rolled back into the area. You are assessed one (1) penalty stroke.
3. The final option is to go back to the spot where you played the shot into the penalty area, drop and hit another ball. A one (1) stroke penalty is assessed + distance. So if it was your tee shot, you would now be hitting 3 from the tee.

If the penalty area is a lateral penalty area (red stakes), you have the same option as the regular penalty area above, plus one more.

Find the spot where the ball crossed the penalty area margin. Drop your ball within two club lengths, no nearer the hole. One (1) penalty stroke is assessed.

Rules covering penalty areas can be found in the USGA Rules of Golf, Rule 17.

<https://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/rules/rules-2019/players-edition/rule-17.html>

Out of bounds is indicated by **White Stakes and White Lines or the boundary of the golf course**. **The Fox Hollow Men's Club in conjunction with the Fox Hollow Golf Course has decided NOT TO ADOPT THE NEW LOCAL RULES FOR OB AND LOST BALL.** For a ball that has been hit out of bounds or a ball that is lost, the player must proceed under the Stroke-and-distance penalty - a golfer must assess himself a one (1) stroke penalty, return to the spot of the previous shot and hit it again.

### **FREE DROPS:**

A number of situations you encounter on the golf course provide for a free drop – ball lies in ground under repair (white lines painted), stance or ball lies on a cart path (paved or gravel), stance or ball lies in casual water (water is visible when stepping near your ball). Find the NEAREST point of relief – you cannot pick any spot, it must be the NEAREST to where your original ball lies – then drop within one club length of that spot.

## **BALL DROPS:**

The new rules of golf in effect starting 2019 season define dropping a ball from knee height whenever there is a need to drop.

## **LOCAL RULES OF THE COURSE:**

- HOLE #2: The metal barrier behind #2 is considered an integral part of the course and there is NO free relief. It may seem unfair, but it's just like being up against a tree. Plus the barrier probably just saved your golf ball from a watery grave, so you should be thankful it was there.
- HOLE #3: Players hitting their ball into the river (penalty area) may cross to the island, add one stroke to their score and drop a ball in the designated drop area.
- HOLE #4: The metal barrier on this hole is also an integral part of the course (see #2 above) and there is NO free drop (see Hole #2).
- HOLE #17: There is a drop area for balls hit into the water from the tee box. **IT IS ONLY FOR BALLS HIT INTO WATER, NOT OUT OF BOUNDS.** See above for out of bounds rules. The drop area is immediately in front of the forward tee.
- HOLE #18: Out of bounds on hole 18 starts at the highway asphalt of Cty. Rd. 36, and behind the green at the curb of Palmgren Avenue – even if there are no stakes. That means the lower parking lot is in bounds and also the ramp leading down to the tunnel under Cty Rd. 36 is in bounds.
- HOLE #18: If a ball strikes the power lines on #18, it MUST be replayed without penalty. If a ball strikes the power poles and caroms out of bounds (driving range), it must be replayed and you're penalized the usual stroke and distance for out of bounds.
- What to do if no one knows: When a rules question comes up and a golfer isn't sure which of two options to follow, play two balls. At the end of the round – BEFORE signing the scorecard - ask the golf professional which action was the valid one and complete the score card appropriately.
- The following local rule overrideS USGA rules
  - If there is some question as to whether a ball hit into or near a penalty area is playable or not, the player may play a provisional ball. This is not allowed by USGA rules but we have created this local rule to speed up play.

## **SCORE CARDS:**

- All score cards MUST contain each player's full name and local number. It is each player's responsibility to insure the score keeper has fill out the card properly. Players who cannot be identified will, obviously, be disqualified.