

## **Thursday Senior Men's League Local Rules**

### **USGA Rules**

We generally follow the rules of golf as stated in the rulebook of the USGA. We vary these rules with "our" local rules. If there is any doubt, then follow the stricter USGA Rule.

### **Preferred Lies**

We Play Preferred Lies all over. This means you have the option to improve the lie of your golf ball in certain situations during the round, and without penalty. Traditionally, "preferred lies" means a golfer can lift a golf ball, or "roll it over" to improve your lie ie setting it up on the grass. You may move your ball when in bare earth to a spot where there is grass. This does not mean you can improve your condition in other words you cannot move from rough to fairway or away from trees or from hazard.

### **Out of Bounds / Lost ball**

We do not go back to the Tee on out of bounds and lost balls (Stroke and Distance). Drop a ball in the area two club lengths from out of bounds or generally where the ball is lost and take 1-stroke penalty.

USGA New rule for 2019 Includes the option to drop the ball onto the fairway BUT you must take a **2-stroke** penalty

### **Unplayable Lie**

We do follow the USGA Rule 28 for Unplayable lie. Unplayable might be behind a tree, in high grass, in Woods etc. Taking a penalty of 1-Stroke the ball can be moved 2 club lengths not nearer to the hole, or back to where you played the shot, or in a line backwards in line with the Pin (not in line where you hit the shot). Cannot move out of a Bunker. (USGA Rule 28)

### **Water logged or bad conditioned Bunkers**

If sand bunkers are water logged or in bad condition take a free drop behind (not sideways) the bunker.

### **Rocks / Tree Roots**

You can take a free drop out of area full of stones or Tree Roots. You cannot improve your condition ie move out of the woods.

### **Scramble Rules**

Scramble rules – ball can be moved up to 1 club length not nearer to the hole and can improve your condition BUT not out of hazard or onto green.

## **Gimmies ???**

Gimmies are generally used when playing match play. Only your opponent can give a "Gimmie".

Sometimes in medal play players will take a gimmie on a "short" putt to speed up play. We tolerate this action BUT when you take a "longer" putt, then you are only hurting yourself since this might reduce your handicap and give more strokes to your opponent. Taking a gimmie when it helps your teammates to score in the completion is NOT allowed.

## **Equitable Stroke Control**

Equitable Stroke Control ESC is used only for calculating your handicap. If you have a 11 on a hole that is your actual score BUT when you turn in your card you use the ESC system max 7 for handicap 11 – 20, 8 for 21 – 30. Mark your card with a 7x or 8x and adjust your total score. Refer to an explanation of the ESC on our website.

## **Summary**

The idea is to enjoy golf as seniors without being penalized for course conditions. Golf is played without supervision of a referee or umpire. The game relies on the personal integrity of the individual to abide by the rules and to show consideration for other players.