



Ford's Colony Country Club

LOCAL RULES

Authority

The following local rules are in effect at Ford's Colony Country Club in accordance with [The Rules of Golf](#), The United States Golf Association and the Royal and Ancient Club of St. Andrews, Scotland. (Effective Date: January 1, 2016)

Preamble:

The management of Ford's Colony Country Club asks that all players observe proper golf etiquette at all times and assist with the care and preservation of our golf courses by following these simple rules:

A. Bunkers

Before leaving a bunker, players should carefully fill up and smooth over all holes and footprints made by them and any nearby made by others. If a rake is within reasonable proximity of the bunker, the rake should be used for this purpose.

B. Repair of Divots, Ball-Marks and Damage by Shoes

Players should carefully repair any divot holes made by them and any damage to the putting green made by the impact of a ball (whether or not made by the player himself). On completion of the hole by all players in the group, damage to the putting green caused by golf shoes should be repaired.

C. Preventing Unnecessary Damage

i. Players should avoid causing damage to the course by removing divots when taking practice swings or by hitting the head of a club into the ground, whether in anger or for any other reason.

ii. Players should ensure that no damage is done to the putting green when putting down bags or the flagstick.

iii. In order to avoid damaging the hole, players and caddies should not stand too close to the hole and should take care during the handling of the flagstick and the removal of a ball from the hole. The head of a club should not be used to remove a ball from the hole.

iv. Players should not lean on their clubs when on the putting green, particularly when removing the ball from the hole. The flagstick should be properly replaced in the hole before players leave the putting green.

LOCAL RULES

Local Rule # 1 - Out of Bounds

White stakes on the course, the netting between the driving range and Blackheath #1, and all paved and unpaved roads define **Out of Bounds**. [USGA Rule 33-2a](#)

Local Rule # 2 – Areas on the Course Requiring Preservation

2.1. Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA):

There are environmentally sensitive areas on Ford's Colony Country Club courses that are clearly marked by red stakes with green tops. Entry into these areas either to retrieve a ball or to take a shot is prohibited for environmental reasons. These areas are defined as lateral water hazards and [USGA Rule 26-1](#) governs play.

HOWEVER, when the Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) interferes with the player's stance or the area of his intended swing, the player must take relief as follows:

If the ball lies through the green, the point on the course nearest to where the ball lies must be determined that (a) is not nearer the hole, (b) avoids interference by the ESA and (c) is not in a hazard or on a putting green. The player must lift the ball and drop it, without penalty, within one club-length of the point so determined on a part of the course that fulfills (a), (b) and (c) above.

The ball may be cleaned when lifted.

2.2. Protection of Young Trees:

If a tree is identified by support posts and/or wires or is less than 4 feet tall, and such tree interferes with a player's stance or area of his intended swing, the ball must be dropped in accordance with [USGA Rule 24-2b](#).

2.3. Mulch Areas With Flowers and Bushes (Plants)

A player whose ball lands in a mulch area and is near or under flowers or a bush where a swing or stance would damage the flowers or bush if the ball was played from that location must take relief. The player shall lift and drop ball within one club length of the nearest point of relief outside the mulch bed, without penalty based on the following conditions: not nearer the hole, and not in a hazard or on the green. The ball may be cleaned. If the ball cannot be found it must be treated as a lost ball. [USGA Rule 27](#)

2.4. Mulch Area Ditch

The V-groove/drainage ditch that surrounds a mulch area should be treated as "Hole by Greens Keeper". If a ball comes to rest in the v-groove/drainage ditch that surrounds a mulch area, the player may lift the ball and drop it without penalty within one club length of the nearest point of relief, not nearer the hole. The nearest point of relief must not be on a hazard or on the putting green. The ball may be cleaned when lifted under this rule. [USGA Rule 33-2](#)

2.5. Murdoch Cemetery (Blackheath)

On Hole #2, a ball in the cemetery must be lifted and dropped within one club length that is not nearer the hole and avoids interference of the cemetery without penalty. [USGA Rule 33-2](#)

2.6. Newly Sodded Areas

Through the green, newly sodded areas, usually defined by white paint, are considered *ground under repair* from which play is prohibited. If a player's ball lies in that area, or if it interferes with the player's stance or the area of his intended swing, the player must take relief under [USGA Rule 25-1](#).

Local Rule # 3 - Course Conditions: Mud, Extreme Wetness, Poor Conditions and Protection of the Course

(Ref: [Decisions on the Rules of Golf, Appendix 1, Part B, Specimen Local Rules](#))

3.1. Relief for Embedded Ball

Through the green, a ball that is embedded in its own pitch-mark in the ground may be lifted, without penalty, cleaned and dropped as near as possible to where it lay but not nearer the hole. The ball when dropped must first strike a part of the course through the green.

3.2. "Preferred Lies" and "Winter Rules"

At any time of the year, adverse conditions such as mud, prolonged rains, spring thaws, extreme wetness, heavy snows and poor conditions may call for "preferred lies", ("commonly referred to as lift, clean, and place.") During the period from December 1 of the current year through February of the following year, "winter rules" will take effect and Local Rule 3.2 will automatically apply during these months.

3.2.1 - Acceptability of Scores When Playing Preferred Lies

Scores made when a Local Rule for [preferred lies](#) (*winter rules*), is in effect must be posted for handicap purposes unless the Committee (preferably the [Handicap Committee](#) in consultation with the Committee in charge of the course) determines that course conditions are so poor that such scores are not acceptable and should not be posted. Individual players playing the course do not independently decide whether scores are acceptable because of the conditions. If an individual decides to apply some form of this Local Rule, and the Committee has not invoked such a rule, the player's score is acceptable and must be posted for handicap purposes.

If adverse conditions such as flooding, mud, heavy snow, etc. are widespread throughout the course, the Committee should consider suspending score posting until conditions improve. If the Committee decides to suspend score posting due to poor course conditions, it should notify all players playing the course that scores should not be posted.

3.2.2 – Relief from Adverse Conditions

When the above-mentioned conditions exist and "preferred lies" and/or "winter rules" are invoked:

a) A ball lying on a closely-mown area "*through the green*" may be lifted, without penalty, and cleaned. Before lifting the ball, the player must mark its position. Having lifted the ball, the player must place it **as near as possible to the spot where it originally lay, no nearer the hole** that is not in a hazard, or on a putting green.

- b)** A player may place his ball only once, and it is in play when it has been placed ([USGA Rule 20-4](#)). If the ball fails to come to rest on the spot on which it was placed, [USGA Rule 20-3d](#) applies. If the ball when placed comes to rest on the spot on which it is placed and it subsequently moves, there is no penalty and the ball must be played as it lies unless the provisions of any other Rule apply.
- c)** If the player fails to mark the position of the ball before lifting it, or moves the ball in any other manner, such as rolling it with a club, a one-stroke penalty is incurred.
- d)** A physical (medical) condition that precludes compliance with Rule 3.2.2 will not be allowed unless authorized by the Ford's Colony Country Club Handicap / Tournament Committee per request from the MGA and/or the LGA.

Note: “Closely mown area means any area of the course, including paths through the rough, cut to fairway height or less.

Exception: A player may not take relief under Local Rule 3.2.2 if it is clearly unreasonable for the player to play a stroke because of interference by anything, such as trees. ([USGA Rule 24 \(Obstructions\)](#); and [USGA Rule 28 \(Ball Unplayable\)](#), apply.)

3.2.3 - Lost Ball (Leaf Rule) (Ref: [Decisions on the Rules of Golf 33-8/31](#))

During the period November 1 of the current year through February of the following year:

- a)** A ball known or virtually certain to be lost in an accumulation of leaves through the green may be substituted with another ball and dropped, without penalty, as near as possible to the spot where it was thought to originally lay, no nearer the hole, not in a hazard or on a putting green.
- b)** A ball known or virtually certain to be Out of Bounds will be played in accordance with [USGA Rule 27-1.b](#).
- c)** A ball known or virtually certain to be in a Water Hazard will be played in accordance with [USGA Rule 26-1](#).

NOTE: THIS LOCAL RULE IS NOT INTENDED TO PROVIDE RELIEF FROM TREE INTERFERENCE, ONLY TO PROVIDE RELIEF FOR BALL LOST IN LEAVES.

3.2.4 – Abnormal Conditions in a Bunker:

If a player's ball is in casual water, or on ice or snow (casual water) or on leaves (loose impediments) in a bunker, or if a bunker is completely flooded or washed out due to excessive rain, [USGA Rule 25-1.b \(ii\)](#) applies. However, if extreme conditions exist, the Committee gives the Pro Shop authority, at its discretion, on specific days, to specify and declare parts of the golf course(s), including bunkers, ground under repair, where [USGA Rule 25-1.b \(i\)](#) applies. (Ref. [Decisions on The Rules of Golf, Rule 25-1b/8](#)).

Local Rule # 4 - Relief From Interference by an Immovable Obstruction

4.1. If a ball lies off the putting green but not in a hazard and an immovable obstruction on or within two club lengths of the putting green and within two club lengths of the ball intervenes on the line of play between the ball and the hole, the player may take relief as follows: the ball must be lifted and **DROPPED** at the nearest point to where the ball lay that (a) is not nearer the hole, (b)

avoids intervention and (c) is not in a hazard or on a putting green. The ball may be cleaned when lifted. [USGA Rule 24-2](#)

4.2. The **ELECTRIC FANS** located on metal poles installed near the greens for air circulation over the greens are temporary immovable obstructions. *Through the green* the player shall lift the ball and drop it without penalty within one club-length of the point thus determined on a part of the course that is not nearer the hole, avoids interference and not in hazard or on the putting green.

Local Rule # 5 – Relief from Aeration Holes

Through the green, a ball that 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 the hole. The ball when dropped must first strike a part of the course through the green. On the putting green, a ball that comes to rest in or on an aeration hole may be placed at the nearest spot, not nearer the hole, that avoids this situation. [USGA Rule: Appendix I-B, 4d.](#)

Local Rule #6 - Seams of Cut Turf

Through the green, seams of cut turf (not the turf itself) are deemed ground under repair. However, interference by a seam with the player’s stance is deemed not to be, of itself, interference. If the ball lies in or touches the seam or the seam interferes with the area of intended swing, relief is available. All seams within the cut turf area are considered the same seam. [USGA Rule 25-1](#)

Local Rule # 7 - Stones in Bunkers

Stones in bunkers are regarded as “movable obstructions” and can be removed without penalty. [USGA Rule 24-1](#)

Local Rule # 8 - Ball Drops

On all par 3 holes on all three golf courses at Ford’s Colony Country Club, the ball drop area will be the most forward teeing area or the designated drop area.

A player has the option of using the designated ball drop area locations or compliance with [USGA Rule 26](#) Water Hazards (including Lateral Water Hazards).

The most forward teeing area and the designated drop areas require the ball to be **dropped, not teed.**

Local Rule #9 - Distance Measuring Devices.

For all play on our courses, a player may obtain distance information by use of a distance-measuring device. However, if a player during Club events, MGA 18 and 9 and LGA 18 and 9 events, uses a distance-measuring device to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his play (e.g., elevation changes, wind speed, etc.), the player is in breach of **USGA Rule 14.3.**

Penalty for Breach of Rule [14-3](#):

Match play - Loss of hole; Stroke play - Two strokes.

For subsequent offense - Disqualification.

In the event of a breach between the play of two holes, the penalty applies to the next hole.

Local Rule #10 - Accidental Movement of a Ball on a Putting Green

[USGA Rules 18-2, 18-3 and 20-1](#) are modified as follows:

When a player's ball lies on the putting green, there is no penalty if the ball or ball-marker is accidentally moved by the player, his partner, his opponent, or any of their caddies or equipment. The moved ball or ball-marker must be replaced as provided in Rules 18-2, 18-3 and 20-1. This Local Rule applies only when the player's ball or ball-marker lies on the putting green and any movement is accidental.

Note: If it is determined that a player's ball on the putting green was moved as a result of wind, water or some other natural cause such as the effects of gravity, the ball must be played as it lies from its new location. A ball-marker moved in such circumstances is replaced."

Local Rule # 11 - Players Competing From Different Tees

Because 1) handicaps are calculated to give a player a "reasonable potential" to have a net score equal to the Course Rating, and 2) because the courses have different ratings for each set of tees, there must be an equitable adjustment as stipulated in *The Rules of Golf*. When players are competing from four different tees, Blue, White, Red, and "Combo(s)", they must use the handicap for the tee they are using, and **add** the adjustment. *For Example*, players playing from Blue tees competing with players playing from White tees must use the Blue tees computer handicap and, in addition, must **add** the difference in course rating between the White tees and Blue tees.

(Ref: Policy for Players Competing from Different Tees)

[USGA Handicap System, Section 3-5](#):

SEE LOCAL RULES APPENDIX I

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF LOCAL RULES UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED:

Match play – Loss of hole; Stroke play – Two strokes

FORD'S COLONY COUNTRY CLUB
PLAYERS COMPETING FROM DIFFERENT TEES, OR MEN VS WOMEN FROM SAME TEE.

COMPETITORS	ON TEES	COURSE	ADD	TO HANDICAP OF
Men vs. Men	Blue vs. Blue/White	Marsh Hawk	2	Blue
		Blue Heron	1	
		Blackheath	2	
	Blue vs. White	Marsh Hawk	2	Blue
		Blue Heron	2	
		Blackheath	3	
	Blue vs. White/Red	Marsh Hawk	5	Blue
		Blue Heron	4	
		Blackheath	5	
	Blue vs. Red	Marsh Hawk	5	Blue
		Blue Heron	6	
		Blackheath	7	
Blue/White vs. White	Marsh Hawk	1	Blue/White	
	Blue Heron	1		
	Blackheath	2		
Blue/White vs. White/Red	Marsh Hawk	3	Blue/White	
	Blue Heron	3		
	Blackheath	4		
Blue/White vs. Red	Marsh Hawk	4	Blue/White	
	Blue Heron	4		
	Blackheath	6		
White vs. White/Red	Marsh Hawk	2	White	
	Blue Heron	2		
	Blackheath	2		
White vs. Red	Marsh Hawk	3	White	
	Blue Heron	3		
	Blackheath	4		
White/Red vs. Red	Marsh Hawk	1	White/Red	
	Blue Heron	1		
	Blackheath	2		
COMPETITORS	ON TEES	COURSE	ADD	TO HANDICAP OF
Men vs. Women	Blue (M) vs. White (W)	Marsh Hawk	2	Women
		Blue Heron	4	
		Blackheath	2	
	Blue (M) vs. Red (W)	Marsh Hawk	2	Men
		Blue Heron	0	
		Blackheath	3	
	Blue (M) vs. White/Red (W)	Marsh Hawk	0	Women
		Blue Heron	1	
		Blackheath	1	
	Blue/White (M) vs. White (W)	Marsh Hawk	4	Women
		Blue Heron	5	
		Blackheath	3	
Blue/White (M) vs. White/Red (W)	Marsh Hawk	1	Women	
	Blue Heron	3		
	Blackheath	1		
Blue/White (M) vs. Red (W)	Marsh Hawk	0	Women	
	Blue Heron	1	Women	
	Blackheath	1	Men	
White (M) vs. White (W)	Marsh Hawk	4	Women	
	Blue Heron	6		
	Blackheath	5		
White (M) vs. Red (W)	Marsh Hawk	0	Women	
	Blue Heron	2		
	Blackheath	1		
White/Red (M) vs. White (W)	Marsh Hawk	7	Women	
	Blue Heron	8		
	Blackheath	7		
White/Red (M) vs. White/Red (W)	Marsh Hawk	4	Women	
	Blue Heron	6		
	Blackheath	5		
White/Red (M) vs. Red (W)	Marsh Hawk	3	Women	
	Blue Heron	4		
	Blackheath	3		
Red (M) vs. Red (W)	Marsh Hawk	3	Women	
	Blue Heron	5		
	Blackheath	5		
COMPETITORS	ON TEES	COURSE	ADD	TO HANDICAP OF
Women vs. Women	White vs. White/Red	Marsh Hawk	2	White
		Blue Heron	2	
		Blackheath	2	
	White vs. Red	Marsh Hawk	4	White
		Blue Heron	4	
		Blackheath	5	
White/Red vs. Red	Marsh Hawk	2	White/Red	
	Blue Heron	2		
	Blackheath	2		

Per The USGA Handicap System Rule 3-5a

Revised 12/31/2016

