

# The Villages®

## Golf Courses - Local Rules

**USGA RULES WILL GOVERN ALL PLAY ALONG WITH THE FOLLOWING RULES.**

- **Out of Bounds** is defined by:
  1. The inside edge of white stakes or lines, villa walls, and wooden fences.
  2. In the absence of stakes, the inside edge of street curbs, paved public roads, or transportation trails.
- **Yellow Penalty Areas** are identified by Yellow Stakes and defined by Yellow Lines.
- **Red Penalty Areas** are identified by Red Stakes and defined by Red Lines
- **No Play Zone-Penalty Areas** are identified by either Red Stakes with Green Tops or Yellow Stakes with Green Tops and defined by either Red Lines or Yellow Lines. When a ball is in the no play zone within the penalty area, the ball must not be played as it lies and relief must be taken from interference by the no play zone under Rule 17.1e. ***Do not enter the No Play Zone to retrieve or play your ball.***
- **Alternative to Stroke and Distance for a Ball That is Lost or Out of Bounds** See reverse side of page.
- **Ground Under Repair:** which allows free relief under the following conditions
  1. Areas enclosed by white lines
  2. Any unusual damage caused by maintenance vehicles, golf carts or the like
  3. Any newly sodded areas; relief is permitted for the lie of the ball only.
  4. Staked Trees and/or built up tree wells.
- In the event of an odd course handicap, the extra stroke is applied to the first nine played.
- The Scoring area is deemed to be the entire clubhouse grounds.
- Scorecard playoffs for all of The Villages sponsored events will be broken by The USGA Rules of Golf.

***These Local Rules encompass all of The Villages Golf Courses. There may be additional local rules needed at each individual club. If needed, they will be posted below:***

## *Alternative to Stroke and Distance for a Ball That is Lost or Out of Bounds*

“When a player’s ball has not been found or is known or virtually certain to be out of bounds, the player may proceed as follows rather than proceeding under stroke and distance.

For two penalty strokes, the player may take relief by dropping the original ball or another ball in this relief area (see Rule 14.3):

Two Estimated Reference Points:

a. **Ball Reference Point:** The point where the original ball is estimated to have:

- Come to rest on the course, or
- Last crossed the edge of the course boundary to go out of bounds.

b. **Fairway Reference Point:** The point of fairway of the hole being played that is nearest to the ball reference point, but is not nearer the hole than the ball reference point.

For purposes of this Local Rule, “fairway” means any area of grass in the general area that is cut to fairway height or less.

If a ball is estimated to be lost on the course or last crossed the edge of the course boundary short of the fairway, the fairway reference point may be a grass path or a teeing ground for the hole being played cut to fairway height or less.

Size of Relief Area Based on Reference Points: Anywhere between:

- A line from the hole through the ball reference point (and within two club-lengths to the outside of that line), and
- A line from the hole through the fairway reference point (and within two club-lengths to the fairway side of that line).

But with these limits:

Limits on Location of Relief Area:

- Must be in the general area, and
- Must not be nearer the hole than the ball reference point.

Once the player puts a ball in play under this Local Rule:

- The original ball that was lost or out of bounds is no longer in play and must not be played.
- This is true even if the ball is found on the course before the end of the three-minute search time (see Rule 6.3b).

But the player may not use this option to take relief for the original ball when:

- That ball is known or virtually certain to have come to rest in a penalty area, or
- The player has played another ball provisionally under penalty of stroke and distance (see Rule 18.3).

A player may use this option to take relief for a provisional ball that has not been found or is known or virtually certain to be out of bounds.

Penalty for Playing Ball from a Wrong Place in Breach of Local Rule: General Penalty Under Rule 14.7a.

Effective Date: January 1, 2019