

STMGA Rules

SEA TRAIL MEN'S GOLF ASSOCIATION (STMGA) RULES

THE MOST RECENT EDITION OF THE USGA RULES OF GOLF SHALL SERVE AS THE BASIC REFERENCE GOVERNING PLAY. HOWEVER, THERE ARE SOME LOCAL RULES IN EFFECT. PLEASE FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THESE RULES.

1. PLAYING CONDITIONS

Each year, during the five (5) months of January, February, March, November and December, "Winter Rules" apply. A player may lift, clean and place his ball in his own fairway within one club length. During the remaining seven (7) months, April through October, the ball shall be played "Down" unless otherwise noted by the Tournament Chairman.

2. PUTTS

All putts are to be holed out.

3. OUT OF BOUNDS

Out of bounds are defined by white stakes with "OB" markings. However, even in the absence of "OB" stakes, a ball coming to rest on or across any public road or street within the confines of Sea Trail Plantation will be considered "Out of Bounds".

4. DROP AREAS

The use of any drop area is optional. A player electing to use a drop area shall drop the ball in this area and continue play under penalty of one stroke.

Exception: Hole No. 7 of the Maples Course is not included in this rule. Use of the drop area on the Maples No. 7 will be allowed in the following situation:

- When the player has incurred three or more strokes (*not including penalty*) and the ball is in the water hazard (Yellow Stakes), under penalty of one stroke, the ball may be dropped in the drop area.

Any ball in the lateral hazard (Red Stakes) must be played under the USGA rules. No relief to the drop area is allowed.

5. WASTE AREAS

Such areas will be found on both the Maples and Byrd courses. These sand areas are not considered bunkers. Therefore, a club may be grounded without penalty

6. 150 YARD MARKERS AND CART EXIT MARKERS

If these posts interfere with a player's swing, stance or line of flight, they may be removed from their sleeves or the ball may be lifted and dropped, without penalty, within one club length of the nearest point of relief.

7. LIFTING AN EMBEDDED BALL

“Through the Green”: If the ball lies in its own pitch mark through the green, the nearest point of relief shall be determined which is not in a hazard or on a putting green. The player shall lift and clean the ball and drop it without penalty within one club length of and not nearer the hole than the nearest point of relief, on a part of the course which avoids interference (as defined) by the condition and is not in a hazard or on a putting green. (“Through the Green” is the whole area of the golf course except: (A) The teeing ground and putting green of the hole being played and (B) All hazards on the course).

The above Rule appears in the 2000-2001 USGA Rule book – Appendix 1, #3.

8. SPIKE MARKS

Spike marks which may impede the “line of putt” may be tamped down.

NOTE: As part of “Care of the Course”, a player should ensure that any divot hole made by him and any damage to the putting green made by a ball is carefully repaired. On completion of the hole by all players in the group, damage to the putting green caused by golf shoe spikes and golf balls should be repaired.

9. BALL IN BUNKERS AND WASTE AREAS (FOOT PRINTS, TIRE MARKS, NATURAL EROSION AND WASHOUT AREAS)-ALL COURSES

If a ball comes to rest in a footprint, tire mark, natural erosion or washout conditions in a bunker or waste area, relief will be permitted without penalty under the rules of golf (*that is, determine nearest relief within the bunker or waste area and no closer to the hole*). The ball may be placed under these conditions.

NOTE: *The player must first consult with others in the group before the ball is moved and relief is taken.*

10. MARGIN OF WATER HAZARD IS DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:

A. Lateral Water Hazard with No Stakes or No Markings. The margin of the hazard is the edge of the water.

B. Lateral Hazards with Stakes and No Line Markings. The margin of the water hazard is defined as a distance from the edge of the water, being the same distance from the edge of the water as the nearest stake(s) is from the edge of the water.

C. Overflow of the Water Hazard and Casual Water. The margin of the water hazard will be determined by the distance the stakes are in the water on the nearest stake(s). If no stakes exist, the edge of the water is the margin of the water hazard and casual water is not defined for the overflow.

11. USE OF MEASURING DEVICES

Players are permitted to use devices that measure distance only. However, the use of devices that gauge or measure other conditions that might affect a player's play (e.g., wind or gradient) is not permitted in accordance with Rule 14-3.

12. BALL IN LANDSCAPE AND PLANTED AREAS- ALL COURSES

If a ball lies within a Designated Planted Area, a player **must take relief without penalty** to the nearest point of relief in accordance with the rules of golf

Wall on Hole No. 17 of Maples Course is an integral part of the course and the ball shall be played as it lies unless the ball is against the wall, whereas, the ball shall be considered in the landscaped area and the above stated rule for relief applies.

No relief is provided for pine straw, mulch areas and other planted areas that are not on the Designated List of Planted or Landscaped Areas.

Note: Designated Planted and Landscape Areas include all areas designated by a stake set by the Golf Course and/or designated in the published list for each course. Designated areas shall be updated as deemed necessary. The list of Designated Landscape and Planted Areas will be posted at the clubhouse and on the website.

13. BALL IN TRENCH AROUND LANDSCAPE BEDDING

For trench conditions around landscape areas (mulched areas with pine straw or other bedding materials) that is not considered ground under repair and/or marked as designated landscape beds, **the Chairman of the Tournament may allow relief, without penalty, under the following conditions:**

- (a) Player must request approval of other players in the Group prior to taking relief under this rule.
- (b) Ball must be in the depressed portion of the trench where ball is considered unplayable or may cause injury to the player.
- (c) Ball must be dropped within one (1) club length of the original spot and no closer to the hole.
- (d) Ball must be dropped in the landscape area unless so marked as a designated landscape area.

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