

The Villages G&CC – Local Golf Rules

Aeration Holes

Through the green, a ball that comes to rest in or on an aeration hole may be lifted, cleaned and dropped without penalty 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 point not nearer the hole that avoids such situation. [Rules of Golf: App. I-B 4d]

Animal Damaged Areas

Any area through the green, severely damaged by a burrowing or non-burrowing animal, may be treated as ground under repair, even when not so marked. [33-8/32.5]

Bunkers [New category]

If a stone may be struck by a club in the process of stroking to remove a ball from a bunker, the stone, in the bunker, may be removed as a moveable obstruction. [Reworded Rule as of 27 June 2014]

Cultivated Flower Beds

The garden areas between the lakes on holes #6 & #7, bordering the practice green and to the left of the pond on hole 18, are ground under repair within a water hazard. Play is prohibited-one stroke penalty. [Rule 25-1b note 1]. Drop zones are provided for holes 6,9 & 18. All other flower beds are GUR.

Distance Measuring Devices

For all play on this course, a player may obtain distance information by using a device that measures distance only. However, if, during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance-measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his play (e.g. gradient, wind speed, temperature, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 14-3, for which the penalty is disqualification, regardless of whether any such additional functions are actually used. [14-3/0.5]

Hazard Boundaries

All lakes are Lateral Hazards. Where both stakes and lines are present, stakes indicate hazards and lines define margins. The streams and pond on #9 and #18 are Water Hazards. An optional Drop Zone is provided for a ball entering the pond left of the bridge on #18, another optional Drop Zone is provided for balls in the stream next to the practice green. An optional Drop Zone is provided for a ball in the water to the left and behind #9. On hole #6 the Drop Zone is only an option for balls entering the hazard beyond the drop zone.

Obstructions

The pump enclosures behind #6 green, the enclosure to the left of #18 fairway, the maintenance yard between #'s 8, 11 & 12, the geese control ropes & stakes around the lakes and all sprinkler control boxes, the cart shed and its concrete apron are immovable obstructions. A ball that comes to rest within the cart shed, or on its concrete apron, may be lifted cleaned and dropped in the drop circle provided next to it,

without penalty. Other interference to stance or swing by the shed is given relief as for an immovable obstruction.

Out of Bounds

The bounds of the course are indicated by 1) white posts, 2) curb markings and 3) boundary fences. A ball coming to rest on another part of the course after crossing a public street is out of bounds.

Provisional Tee Ball, #7 only

At #7 only, if a tee ball has crossed the upper water hazard, and if there is doubt whether the ball is lost in the water hazard beyond, the player may play a provisional ball. If the ball is not found, the provisional ball becomes the ball in play, under penalty of stroke and distance. If the original ball is found within the lateral water hazard, the player must play the original ball as it lies without penalty, or continue play with the provisional ball, with the penalty of stroke and distance. If the original ball is found outside the hazard, it remains the ball in play.

Sprinkler head on Green Fringe

If a fixed sprinkler head, within two club lengths of the putting surface and within two club lengths of the ball intervenes on the line of play between the ball on the fringe 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.

Tree Basins

No relief is provided from tree basins that consist of natural materials.

Winter Rules [Preferred Lies]

On any closely mown area of fairway or lesser height through the green, a ball may be marked, lifted, cleaned and placed at a distance of no more than 6 inches from its original lie provided it is not in a hazard or on a green and not closer to the hole. A ball so lifted is back in play when placed. This local rule is to be invoked only when the red flag flies or on holes marked "cart path only" when the green flag flies or at the discretion of the golf pro and/or the tournament committee. [33-8a]

Young Trees [Identified by attachment to a fixed stake **or by ribbed black plastic "sleeve" enclosing a portion of a tree**]

If such a tree, its stake or supporting ropes or "sleeve", interfere with a player's stance or intended swing, the ball must be lifted, without penalty, and dropped in accordance with the immovable obstruction rule.

VGC approved 7/25/14

DRA