

6. Winter Rules (EBG Local Rules)

The following EBG Local Winter Rules apply when declared in effect by the Tournament Committee (TC). These rules are based on standard preferred lies conditions and are designed to ensure fair play during adverse course conditions (e.g., wet weather, soft turf, temporary standing water).

6.1 Preferred Lies — Fairway

- a. If a player's ball lies on a closely mown area (fairway) through the green, the player may lift, clean, and place the ball without penalty.
- b. The player must mark the ball before lifting, then place it within 12 inches (not nearer to the hole) of the original spot, provided the new position is not in a hazard or on a putting green.

6.2 Preferred Lies — Rough and Other Areas

- a. A ball in any area "through the green" other than the closely mown area (fairway) may be cleaned and dropped, without penalty, as near as possible to the spot where it lay, and not nearer to the hole.
- b. The lie of the ball cannot be improved with the drop. For example, if the ball is in the rough or a bush, the ball must be dropped in the same rough or bush.

6.3 Standing Water in Bunkers

- a. If a player's ball lies in temporary (standing) water in either a fairway-side or greenside bunker, the Ground Under Repair (GUR) rule for bunkers with standing water applies.
- b. The player may drop the ball within 12 inches from the nearest point of relief (as near as possible to where the ball lay), no closer to the hole, without any stroke penalty.

6.4 Mud Areas and Tire Marks

- a. If a player's ball lies in a mud area such as tire marks, the Ground Under Repair (GUR) rule applies.
- b. The player may drop the ball within 12 inches from the nearest point of relief (as near as possible to where the ball lay), no closer to the hole, without any stroke penalty.

6.5 Temporary (Puddled) Water — Not in a Hazard

- a. If a player's ball lies in temporary (puddled) water that is not in a hazard/penalty area, the player may play the ball as it lies or take free relief.
- b. To take free relief: find the nearest point of complete relief (clear of the puddle), then drop the original ball or another ball within 12 inches of that point, not nearer to the hole.
- c. Free relief from a puddle is also available if the ball is in a bunker (Rule 16.1c) or on the putting green (Rule 16.1d), without stroke penalty. Relief is not available from a puddle inside a penalty area.

6.6 Ball Placement Rules

- a. A player may place the ball only once. The ball is in play once it has been placed.
- b. If the ball fails to come to rest on the spot where it was placed, the ball must be replaced without penalty.
- c. If the ball comes to rest on the placed spot and subsequently moves on its own, there is no penalty — the ball must be played as it lies.

6.7 Failure to Mark Before Lifting

- a. If a 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 normally incurred.

Note: The EBG Committee has elected to waive this penalty under Winter Rules conditions.