



FOX HOLLOW MEN'S CLUB COMMON RULES OF PLAY AND LOCAL RULES

All Fox Hollow Men's Club events are played under the rules of golf defined by the United States Golf Association except as defined by the **Local Rules** shown below.

The following defines how to handle some of the most common rules situations we will encounter:

COLORED STAKES & LINES:

A *regular* penalty area is defined by **yellow stakes** or lines. A *lateral* penalty area defined by **red stakes** or lines.

If your ball is resting on the line defining the penalty area. ... you're in it. The new rules of golf currently in effect no longer assign a penalty for moving loose impediments or grounding your club in a penalty area.

You have three choices for regular penalty areas (yellow stakes):

1. If the ball is playable, play it with no penalty.
2. If it's not playable, find the spot where your ball last crossed the penalty area margin. Keep that spot between you and the hole. You can drop your ball anywhere on that imaginary line, as far back as you like. You must drop behind the penalty area even if your ball landed on the other side and rolled back into the area. You are assessed one (1) penalty stroke.
3. The final option is to go back to the spot where you played the shot into the penalty area, drop and hit another ball. A one (1) stroke penalty is assessed + distance. So if it was your tee shot, you would now be hitting 3 from the tee.

If the penalty area is a lateral penalty area (red stakes), you have the same option as the regular penalty area above, plus one more.

Find the spot where the ball crossed the penalty area margin. Drop your ball within two club lengths, no nearer the hole. One (1) penalty stroke is assessed.

Rules covering penalty areas can be found in the USGA Rules of Golf, Rule 17.

<https://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/rules/rules-2019/players-edition/rule-17.html>

Out of bounds is indicated by **White Stakes and White Lines or the boundary of the golf course.**

The Fox Hollow Men's Club in conjunction with the Fox Hollow Golf Course has decided NOT TO ADOPT THE NEW LOCAL RULES FOR OB AND LOST BALL. For a ball that has been hit out of bounds or a ball that is lost, the player must proceed under the Stroke-and-distance penalty - a golfer must assess himself a one (1) stroke penalty, return to the spot of the previous shot and hit it again.

FREE DROPS:

A number of situations you encounter on the golf course provide for a free drop – ball lies in ground under repair (white lines painted), stance or ball lies on a cart path (paved or gravel), stance or ball lies in casual water (water is visible when stepping near your ball). Find the NEAREST point of relief – you cannot pick any spot, it must be the NEAREST to where your original ball lies – then drop within one club length of that spot.

BALL DROPS:

The new rules of golf in effect starting 2019 season define dropping a ball from knee height whenever there is a need to drop.

LOCAL RULES OF THE COURSE:

- **ENTIRE COURSE:** The Fox Hollow Men's club has adopted the local rule created by the USGA concerning the accidental movement of a ball or marker on the putting green. The following wording recommended by the USGA shall be in effect for all FHMC events.

"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.

- **What to do if no one knows:** When a rules question comes up and a golfer isn't sure which of two options to follow, play two balls. At the end of the round – BEFORE signing the scorecard - ask the golf professional which action was the valid one and complete the score card appropriately.
- **ENTIRE COURSE (DROP ZONES):** There will not always be painted circles for the drop zones on #3 and #17. In both cases, you are required to drop the ball within 2 club lengths of the drop zone sign no nearer the hole than the sign. #3 and #17 are the ONLY holes with drop zones. If you see drop zones on other holes, they are for other leagues, not FHMC.
- **ENTIRE COURSE (FESCUE):** fescue areas will be played as red penalty areas. You may hit out of it if you like but you can also take a penalty stroke and proceed under the rules for red hazard (like water). The fescue areas can be identified by the "Native Area No Carts" signs and by [viewing the map here](#).
- **HOLE #2:** The metal barrier behind #2 is considered an integral part of the course and there is NO free relief. It may seem unfair, but it's just like being up against a tree. Plus the barrier probably just saved your golf ball from a watery grave, so you should be thankful it was there.
- **HOLE #3:** Players hitting their ball into a penalty area may cross to the island, add one stroke to their score and drop a ball in the designated drop area.
- **HOLE #4:** The metal barrier on this hole is also an integral part of the course (see #2 above) and there is NO free drop (see Hole #2).
- **HOLE #5 & 15 (Garden Areas):** garden areas on #15 (up the hill and right of the green) and #5 (left of the landing area next to the cart path are Free drop areas. This is ONLY the areas with flowers and wood chip mulch, NOT high grass areas
- **HOLE #17:** There is a drop area for balls hit into the water from the tee box. **IT IS ONLY FOR BALLS HIT INTO WATER, NOT OUT OF BOUNDS.** See above for out of bounds rules. The drop area is immediately in front of the forward tee.
- **HOLE #18:** Out of bounds on hole 18 starts at the highway asphalt of Cty. Rd. 36, and behind the green at the curb of Palmgren Avenue – even if there are no stakes. That means the lower parking lot is in bounds and also the ramp leading down to the tunnel under Cty Rd. 36 is in bounds.
- **HOLE #18:** If a ball strikes the power lines on #18, it MUST be replayed without penalty. If a ball strikes the power poles and caroms out of bounds (driving range), it must be replayed and you're penalized the usual stroke and distance for out of bounds.
- **HOLE #3, #16, #17** In an effort to remove any gray area of what is/is not considered "casual water" during times of high water on holes 3, 16, and the left side of 17, the Fox Hollow Men's Club has adopted a local rule which removes the chance that one player will hit a ball into trouble and decide to take a free drop for casual water, while another player penalizes himself for the exact same shot.

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Local Rule For High Water On holes #3, #16, and left side of #17:

If your ball comes to land in water and is completely submerged in that water (IE: the ball is entirely under water), and the water your ball is submerged in is currently attached to the Crow River or its tributaries, **the ball is considered to be in a red-staked lateral penalty-area regardless of where the stakes currently are set.** Proceed as you would if your ball was in a penalty area.

If your ball comes to land in water that is not currently connected to the Crow River or its tributaries (IE: a standalone puddle), **and the ball is not within a penalty area as defined by the location of red/yellow stakes,** then your ball is considered to be in casual water. You may take a free drop following the usual rules of relief from casual water.

If your ball comes to land an area that is not defined as a penalty area by stakes, and comes to rest in water that IS connected to the Crow River or its tributaries, **but your ball is not completely submerged in that water,** your ball is considered to be in casual water. Only balls that are entirely submerged in this water are considered to be in a penalty area.

Examples and Application of Local Rule

- 1) You pull your tee ball on 16th tee. The Crow River has risen up by the big trees on the left. The stakes haven't been moved to account for the encroaching water. You see your ball splash next to the 2 big trees. You go down and cannot see your ball. You saw it splash. The water is connected to the Crow River, and your ball is fully submerged. You are considered in the Red Stake penalty area. Take a drop and 1 stroke penalty.
- 2) The Crow has risen to over the sand trap on #3. You chunk your tee shot and it comes to land just past the sand trap. You come to see that your ball is laying on very soggy ground with about a quarter of the ball under water. The ball is not entirely submerged. You are considered in casual water. Follow the standard rules for casual water and take the proper free drop.
- 3) The Crow has risen to over the sand trap on #3. You hit a big fade that lands right of the green past the pin. You see your ball perched on a tuft of weeds against a rock within the penalty area right of the green. Your playing partner says "Hey! Your ball isn't entirely submerged! That's casual water!" Your playing partner is wrong. Your ball is at rest within a penalty area as defined by red stakes. Proceed as you would for a ball within a penalty area.

- The following local rule overrides USGA rules
 - If there is some question as to whether a ball hit into or near a penalty area is playable or not, the player may play a provisional ball. This is not allowed by USGA rules but we have created this local rule to speed up play.