

SIR BRANCH 95 CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFF RULES

Congratulations for qualifying to participate in our Club Championship. For consistency, we have set up specific guidelines and rules to apply during each round. Please review the rules so you understand them. During play, always declare your intentions to another player so there are no misunderstandings. If a rule violation is observed, the breach must be reviewed and resolved by all group members before play continues. For reference, carry these rules with you during your round.

1. Move The Ball

Players are allowed, on the fairways and rough, to reposition the ball within a **six inch** distance of its original location except in a lateral hazard. Here the ball must be played as it lies, or lifted and dropped with a one stroke penalty. This move is not applicable on the greens, nor is it to be used to move the ball from the rough to the fairway, or the fringe to the green. However, on the green a ball may be moved to avoid an obvious area in need of repair. The move shall be limited to clearing the bad spot and should place the ball no closer to the hole. This should be declared to your playing partners.

2. Lost Balls

In Tournament play a ball must be located, or declared lost. The accepted amount of time allowed to search for a ball is three minutes. If not found within the allotted time period, it must be declared lost and a new ball put in play.

White Stakes: In Tournament play, the golfer must return to the last stroke location, take a penalty stroke, and replay the shot. To save time under our **Club Rules**, if all players agree, a replacement ball may be dropped within two club lengths of the stake, or at the best estimate of the location of where the ball was lost, take a **2** stroke penalty and continue play. *You still have the option of returning to the last stroke location, take a penalty stroke, and replay the shot.*

Or, if you declared and hit a provisional ball from the tee, that ball may be placed in play, under penalty of stroke and distance.

Red Stakes: See Water Hazard/Lateral Hazard.

3. Mark Your Ball

All players should declare which ball they are playing before teeing-off, or letting the group know how they mark their ball. It's recommended you place a special mark on your ball for easy identification. This is to avoid hitting someone else's ball. If you hit someone else's ball, or finish the hole playing a ball you did not tee-off with, a two (**2**) stroke penalty will occur. Balls may be lifted for identification, except in a hazard. If someone hits your ball in error, replace it to its original location and resume play.

4. No Gimmee's

In Tournament play, there are no gimmee's. All balls are to be holed out by being putted. If you pickup, or fail to hole out your final putt, a one stroke penalty will occur.

5. **Water Hazard/Lateral Hazard**

After entering a water hazard, a ball must be dropped where it entered and no closer to the hole. Selection of the drop location must be on a line extending from the pin and through the location where the ball first entered the hazard.

Distance of the drop from the hazard is at the discretion of the player. If there is a designated drop zone, then it must be used. A one stroke penalty will occur and play resumed.

A ball may be played from within a lateral hazard without penalty as long as you do not improve its lie. You may rotate the ball where it lies to identify it, but if you lift the ball, or move it to improve its lie, a one stroke penalty will occur. In some cases, it may be better to declare it unplayable. Under our club rules, you may take a one stroke penalty, move it back to within two club lengths of the inside edge of the fairway (from the red stake) and resume play.

6. **Unplayable Lie**

With the ball adjacent to a tree, natural boulder, bush or an out-of-bounds boundary fence that precludes normal stance and stroke, the ball should be declared an unplayable lie, lifted and dropped within two club lengths of its original position. A one stroke penalty will occur and play resumed. If you are in a lateral hazard, you may move it back to within two club lengths of the edge of the fairway, take a one stroke penalty, and resume play.

7. **Manmade Object Relief**

A ball that comes to rest adjacent to a man-made object (fence, staked tree, cart path, sprinkler head) may be lifted for relief and a drop taken, without penalty, within two club lengths of where the ball came to rest. This does not apply if the fence is a white designated “out of bounds” boundary. This should be treated as an unplayable lie.