



# Metro Seniors Golf New Year... New Rules

**2020 Rules: Explained**





# The new rules are great for our game!

- ✓ **New rules do make sense**
- ✓ **USGA intense effort to simplify game**
- ✓ **Speeds up pace of play**

# Dropping the Ball



- ✓ **Ball is now dropped from knee height**
- ✓ **Metro Seniors allows members to lift, clean & place the ball within 1 foot but, no closer to hole**
  - ✓ **anywhere on the course, except a penalty area, bunker, in tall grass more than 6", or a green**
  - ✓ **even after a drop**

# The Golf Ball Hit Me!



✓ No penalty stroke for:

- ❑ Accidentally making ball contact
- ❑ Accidentally double hitting a shot
  - ✓ play it from where it finally came to rest

“So I heard we can ground our club in bunkers now....”



Click inside the video frame to start & outside to continue

# Hazards now called "PENALTY AREAS" ...



- ✓ All hazards, both **red** and **yellow** staked, are now called penalty areas (Sand traps not included)
- ✓ Unmarked heavy woods and tall weeds or grass more than 6" tall are considered **red** penalty areas
- ✓ You can ground your club in these penalty areas, but must play your ball as it lies
- ✓ MS declares all penalty areas as **red** staked penalty areas
- ✓ Next 2 slides clarify relief options...

# Back On The Line Relief

- ▶ There have many questions about Back on the Line relief. This is a straight line going back from the Flag Stick. This option is not always available to you, but if it is, you may go back as far as you like on that line. But If not, you must use the Lateral relief option. This is within 2 club lengths no closer to the hole from where the ball was lost or where it last crossed the margin of the penalty area.
- ▶ There no such relief option as Line of flight. You may not go back as far as you like on the line that the ball traveled on the previous shot.
- ▶ There is demonstration in the next slide.

# Penalty Areas



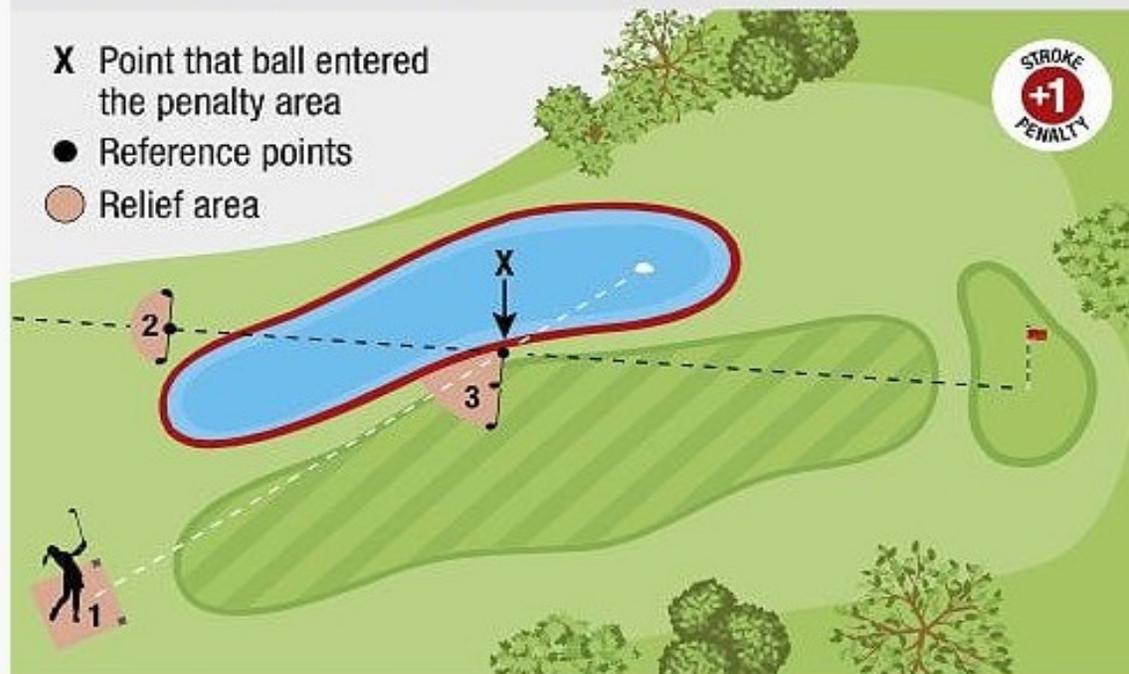
Click inside the video frame to start & outside to continue

Golfer at #1 Position hits into the pond (or the woods) and thinks:

In the pond!  
A **Red Penalty Area**,  
I have 3 options  
now..

## DIAGRAM #2 17.1d: RELIEF FOR BALL IN RED PENALTY AREA

- X Point that ball entered the penalty area
- Reference points
- Relief area



When it is known or virtually certain that a ball is in a red penalty area and the player wishes to take relief, the player has **three options**, each for one penalty stroke:

- (1) The player may take stroke-and-distance relief (see point (1) in Diagram #1 17.1d).
- (2) The player may take back-on-the-line relief (see point (2) in Diagram #1 17.1d).
- (3) The player may take lateral relief (red penalty area only). The reference point for taking lateral relief is point X.

| Reference Point   | Size of Relief Area  | Limits on Relief Area   |
|---|--|---|
| The estimated point where the original ball last crossed the edge of the red penalty area (point X) | Two club-lengths from the reference point<br> | The relief area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must not be nearer the hole than the reference point, and</li> <li>• May be in any area of the course except the same penalty area</li> </ul> |



# On The Green



- ✓ **Player unintentionally moves the ball on the green: place it back in the original spot, with no penalty.**
- ✓ **All unnatural imperfections, such as spike marks and ball divots, can be repaired**

# On The Wrong Green

- ▶ It doesn't happen very often, but if you find your ball on a green of another hole you must not play it from there.
- ▶ You can without penalty move your ball off that green. You must determine the nearest point of complete relief no closer to the green on the hole you are playing
- ▶ Complete relief is determined by taking your stance off the green and then you taking 1 club of that point.

# Flagstick changes to improve PoP



Click inside the video frame to start & outside to continue



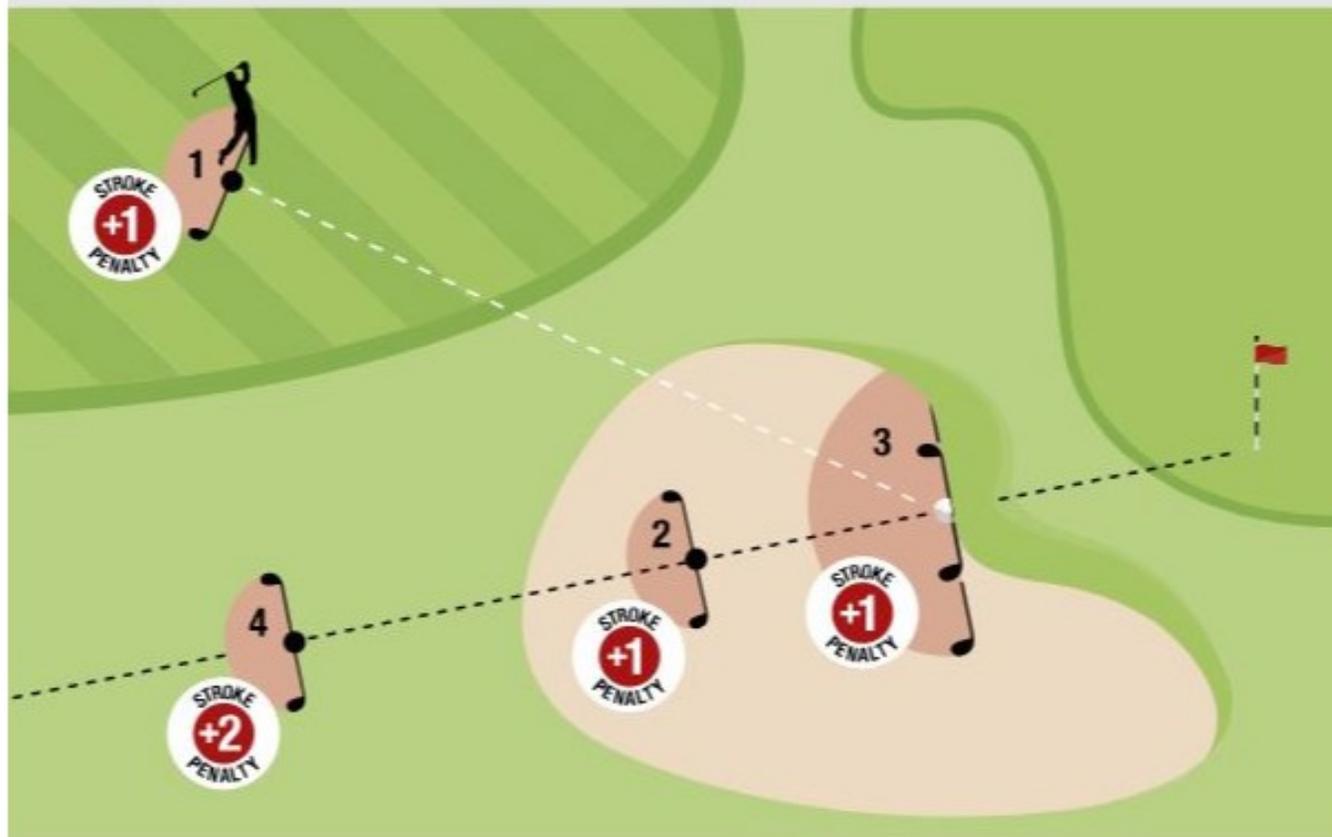
## More flagstick changes

- ✓ If the ball comes to rest wedged between the cup and the pin, it is considered holed
- ✓ You no longer have to remove the stick to determine if the ball falls in
- ✓ Avoid flagstick dancing; first person to want it removed; it stays out.

Player at position 1 hits into a bunker, thinks about which of 4 options...

MS prefers that you never walk back; if you choose (1), do it immediately before walking forward

DIAGRAM 19.3: RELIEF OPTIONS FOR BALL UNPLAYABLE IN BUNKER



A player decides that his or her ball in a bunker is unplayable. The player has **four options**:

- (1) For one penalty stroke, the player may take stroke-and-distance relief.
- (2) For one penalty stroke, the player may take back-on-the-line relief in the bunker.
- (3) For one penalty stroke, the player may take lateral relief in the bunker.
- (4) For a total of two penalty strokes, the player may take back-on-the-line relief outside the bunker based on a reference line going straight back from the hole through the spot of the original ball.



# Nearest Point of Complete Relief



Click inside the video frame to start & outside to continue

# USGA vs. Metro Seniors Rules



- We play by USGA rules,
  - If you abide by them, 99% of the time you will be in compliance with MS exceptions
  - Go to [USGA website](#) for great rules learning diagrams and videos
  
- BUT MS has exceptions for...
  - enhanced enjoyment and Pace of Play

# Stroke and Distance

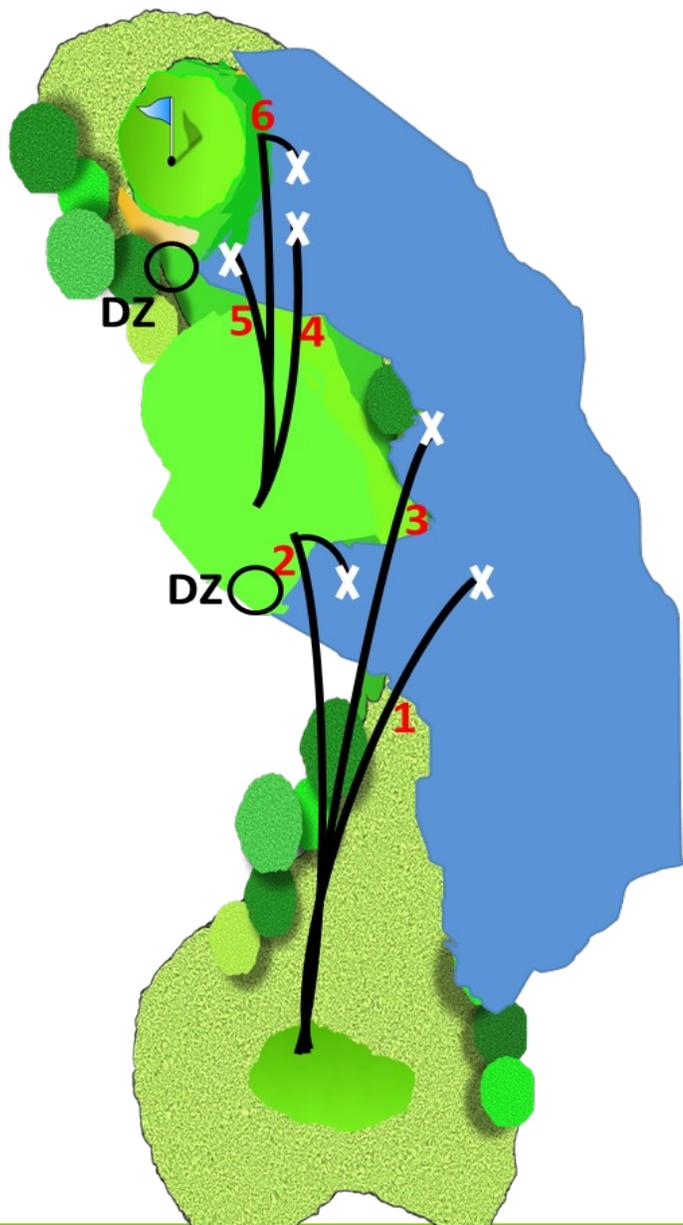


- ✓ Your tee shot slices into the deep woods on the right side..
- ✓ Or your approach shot shanks directly into the deep woods...
- ✓ You go ahead but cannot find the ball; rather than walking all the way back to the tee box...
  - 1) Determine the point of entry into the penalty area,
  - 2) Drop another ball within 2 clubs from the boundary of this unmarked red penalty area.
  - 3) Add one penalty stroke and play on.



## Metro Seniors Exception for Penalty Areas

- ✓ Unmarked areas that are declared Penalty Areas (heavy woods and weeds or grass more than 6” tall)
- ✓ All Penalty Areas are treated as **RED** Penalty Areas. This gives you the Lateral relief option
- ✓ See next slide for where to drop...



- ▶ White X is where the ball came to rest.
- ▶ **Red Number** is a golf shot number and an approximate drop area.
- ▶ All Scenarios listed below require 1 penalty stroke to be added.
  
- ▶ **Shot # 1, 4 & 5** The shot did not cross the Penalty Area.
- ▶ Your options are Lateral Relief, Back-on-the-Line Relief, **immediate Stroke** and Distance Relief and in a Drop Zone (DZ) when available.
  
- ▶ **2 & 6** Shot crosses the Penalty Area and bounces back in.
- ▶ You still have all 3 options for relief. However, Lateral Relief allows you to go to where the ball last entered the Penalty Area and drop within 2 clubs no closer to the hole.
  
- ▶ **3** Shot passes over land before re-entering the Penalty Area.
- ▶ The options here are: Lateral Relief & **Immediate Stroke** and Distance.

# Abnormal Bunker Conditions

The following Relief Options can be taken without Penalty

✓ **Wet Sand**

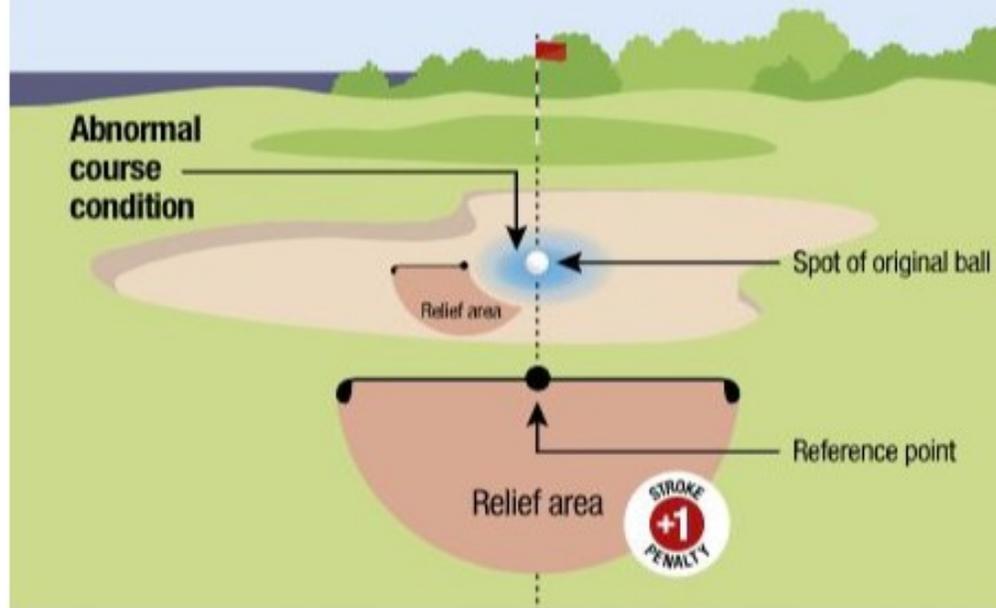
We allow Lifting, Raking and Placing in the bunker as near the original spot no closer to the hole.

✓ **Standing Water**

If the Bunker is full of water and there is no place to take complete relief, you may take Back-on-the-Line Relief

✓ **Inadvertent touching of the sand with your club**

DIAGRAM 16.1c: RELIEF FROM ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITION IN BUNKER



The diagram assumes a right-handed player. When there is interference from an abnormal course condition in a bunker, free relief may be taken in the bunker under Rule 16.1b.

Relief may be taken outside the bunker for one penalty stroke. Relief outside the bunker is based on a reference line going straight back from the hole through the spot of the original ball in the bunker.

| Reference Point   | Size of Relief Area   | Limits on Relief Area  |
|---|---|--|
| A point on the course outside the bunker chosen by the player that is on the reference line and is farther from the hole than the original spot (with no limit on how far back on the line) | One club-length from the reference point<br> | The relief area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must not be nearer the hole than the reference point, and</li> <li>• May be in any area of the course</li> </ul> |

#### Player Notes:

In choosing this reference point, you should indicate the point by using an object (such as a tee).





# Metro Seniors Exceptions

- ✓ **Max of 9 strokes per hole**
  - Pace of play enhancement
  
- ✓ **Play OB as **Red** Stake penalty**
  - But do not play from an OB area

# Metro Seniors Exceptions



- ✓ **When there is no marked Drop Zone: Allow carry over water with 2 additional penalty strokes**
  - Assuming tee shot is in the pond, your next stroke on the other side is #5
  
- ✓ **1 Stroke Penalty for lost ball. You may drop using the Lateral Relief option in the "estimated" lost area.**



# Metro Seniors Exception

- ✓ **DO NOT** walk back for Stroke and Distance penalty; drop another ball immediately.
- ✓ **Lift, Clean & Place** to improve a lie is permitted anywhere, except in a penalty area or bunker or tall grass 6” or more.



## Popular Misconceptions



-  Slice your drive into the woods? Drop another ball back along the line of flight as far as necessary to get a decent shot at the green.
-  Slice another one into the woods on the next hole? Drop another perpendicular to the fairway about as far back from the green as your lost ball may have traveled.
-  Your ball hits on the green side of a bunker, then rolls back into that bunker which is full of water. Take relief alongside the bunker from where it rolled in.
-  Whiffed? Stroke not counted because there was no contact.
-  Miscounted strokes on that previous hole. No one questioned my number; no harm, no foul, let it stand.



# ⊘ No Gimme's

✓ Rule 1.1: ... each hole ends when your ball is holed on the putting green

⊘ Do not "pick it up" before your 8<sup>th</sup> stroke

⊘ Do not say "that's good"

## *Adherence to the rules*



- ✓ **Rule 20.1c ... Signing a scorecard that includes a member violating any rule could result in disqualification**

# Pace of Play



- ✓ Rule 5.6b ... A round of golf is meant to be played at a prompt pace.
- ✓ Your pace of play is likely to affect how long it will take other players to play their round.

# Nonconforming Equipment

- ▶ The USGA does not allow the use of Nonconforming equipment and Metro Seniors has no exception regarding it.
- ▶ Nonconforming equipment is not allowed, so please don't knowingly use any.
- ▶ If someone brings it to your attention that your ball, clubs or other accessories don't conform to the USGA standards, then please stop using them.
- ▶ Repeated offenses may result in disqualification.



# *Questions about our Rules?*

*Email them to [rules.questions@gkbrown.net](mailto:rules.questions@gkbrown.net)*

*Or comment on our web site, under the “Rules” tab select “Rules Roundtable” to share your questions and the Rules Committee’s answers with our members.*