

“Not Fit for Qualifying” (or in teams competitions)

1. Preferred Lies available in the General Area

When a player's ball lies in a part of the General Area excluding 'uncut areas' and plantations, the player may take free relief once by placing the original ball or another ball and playing it from this relief area:

Reference Point: Spot of the original ball.

Size of Relief: Area Measured from Reference Point: 6 inches from the reference point, but with these limits:

- Must not be nearer the hole than the reference point, and
- Must be in the general area.

In proceeding under this Local Rule, the player must choose a spot to place the ball and use the procedures for replacing a ball under Rule 14.2b(2) and 14.2e.

Rule extract:-

14.2 (e) Penalty for Playing Incorrectly Substituted Ball or Playing Ball from a Wrong Place in Breach of Rule 14.2: General Penalty (loss of hole in match play or 2 penalty strokes in stroke play).

(from England Golf Preferred Lies)

2. Preferred Lies in bunkers

If a ball comes to rest in a bunker, the following procedure will apply without penalty:

- (a) A ball may be lifted and cleaned;
- (b) Sand may then be raked where the ball was lifted from;
- (c) Ball is then placed back in the bunker, as close as possible to where it originally lay, not nearer the hole;
- (d) After playing your shot, the bunker will be raked.

Note: Bunkers that are deemed not to be in play for any reason will be marked with a blue flag or painted GUR, and players must take a drop from the nearest point of relief outside of the bunker:

- Reference Point: The nearest point of complete relief (outside of the bunker) in the general area
- Size of Relief Area Measured from Reference Point: One club-length, but with these limits:
- Limits on Location of Relief Area:
 - Must be in the general area,
 - Must not be nearer the hole than the reference point, and
 - There must be complete relief from all interference by the abnormal course condition (in this case the bunker defined as GUR).

(Rule 16.1b)

If all bunkers are deemed not to be in play a message will appear on the Website homepage and on the first tee.

Additional Notes

(a) When preferring a ball a mat may be used. Mats may not be used in penalty areas, bunkers or on areas of uncut rough (including plantations). You do not have to use the mat for every shot.

(b) Roped off areas, when in use, are for traffic management and are classed as Immovable Obstructions. If the posts or ropes interfere with your swing, take relief under Rule 16.1b (One club length from the nearest point of relief, no nearer the hole). Do not attempt to move the ropes or posts.

(c) Any Tees not in use (eg summer tees) are: "Ground Under Repair – No Play Zones". Players must take a drop from nearest point of relief (Rule 16.1b)

(d) 'Stand-alone temporary greens' and 'permanent greens' are classed as "Ground Under Repair – No Play Zones" when not in use. Players must take a drop from nearest point of relief (Rule 16.1b)

(e) Preferred Lies cannot be taken in the new areas of longer rough, for example on the 3rd, 5th, 7th, 12th and 16th holes.