Balbriggan Golf Club – Local Rules

Revision: November 2026

Out of Bounds:

a. Beyond the boundaries of the course.
b. Beyond the area defined by white stakes.
c. The practice ground
d. The Car park, the Clubhouse and the Pro Shop area.

Ground Under Repair:

All areas enclosed by Blue Lines or Blue stakes are deemed as GUR and relief MUST be taken. Wheel ruts and any area damaged by machinery is deemed GUR. Agreement must be sought from partners before a ball can be lifted from such an area.

Protection of Young Trees:

The young trees identified by a stake are no play zones:

- If a player's ball lies anywhere on the course other than in a penalty area and it lies on or touches such a tree or such a tree interferes with the player's stance or area of intended swing, the player must take relief under Rule 16.1f.
- If the ball lies in a penalty area, and interference to the player's stance or area of intended swing exists from such a tree, the player must take relief either with penalty under Rule 17.1eor with free relief under Rule 17.1e(2).

Penalty for Playing Ball from a Wrong Place in Breach of Local Rule:
General Penalty Under Rule 14.7a.

Ball Deflected by Power Line:

If it is known or virtually certain that a player's ball hit a power line or tower or a wire or pole supporting a power line during the play of hole number 13, the stroke does not count. The

player must play a ball without penalty from where the previous stroke was made (see Rule 14.6 for what to do).

Penalty for Playing Ball from a Wrong Place in Breach of Local Rule: General Penalty Under Rule 14.7a.

Relief from Cracks in Ground:

Cracks in the ground in parts of the general area cut to fairway height or less are ground under repair. The player may take relief under Rule 16.1b.

But interference does not exist if the crack only interferes with the player's stance. **Penalty for Playing Ball from a Wrong Place in Breach of Local Rule: General Penalty Under Rule 14.7a.**

Penalty Areas:

If a player does not know whether his or her ball is in the penalty area separating the 7th and 12th holes , or to the right of the 17th fairway when playing the 17th hole, , the player may play a provisional ball under Rule 18.3, which is modified in this way:

In playing the provisional ball, the player may use the stroke-and-distance relief option (see Rule 17.1d(1), the back-on-the-line relief option (see Rule 17.1d(2)) or, if it is a red penalty area, the lateral relief option (see Rule 17.1d(3)).

Once the player has played a provisional ball under this Rule, he or she may not use any further options under Rule 17.1 in relation to the original ball.

In deciding when that provisional ball becomes the player's ball in play or if it must or may be abandoned, Rule 18.3c(2) and 18.3c(3) apply except that:

- When Original Ball Is Found in Penalty Area Within Three-Minute Search Time. The player may choose either to:
  - Continue to play the original ball as it lies in the penalty area, in which case the provisional ball must not be played. All strokes with that provisional ball before it was abandoned (including strokes made and any penalty strokes solely from playing that ball) do not count, or
  - Continue to play the provisional ball in which case the original ball must not be played.
- When Original Ball Is Not Found Within Three-Minute Search Time or Is Known or Virtually Certain to Be in Penalty Area. The provisional ball becomes the player's ball in play.

Penalty for Breach of Local Rule: General Penalty.

Immovable Obstructions:

Staked and or supported trees, ESB poles and protective netting , pathways , sprinkler heads, distance markers, hydrant covers sheds and pylons.

Treating Movable Objects to Be Immovable:

All course furniture, signs and Life Buoy posts on the course are treated as immovable obstructions from which free relief is allowed under Rule 16.1. Relief is not allowed to be taken under Rule 15.2.

Penalty for Breach of Local Rule: General Penalty.

Immovable Obstructions Close to Putting Green:

Relief from interference by an immovable obstruction may be taken under Rule 16.1. The player also has these extra options to take relief when such immovable obstructions are close to the putting green and on the line of play:

Ball in General Area. The player may take relief under Rule 16.1b if an immovable obstruction is:

- On the line of play, and is:
  - Within two club-lengths of the putting green, and
  - Within two club-lengths of the ball.

Exception - No Relief If Line of Play Clearly Unreasonable. There is no relief under this Local Rule if the player chooses a line of play that is clearly unreasonable.

Penalty for Playing Ball from a Wrong Place in Breach of Local Rule: General Penalty Under Rule 14.7a.

Relief from Aeration Holes:

If a player's ball lies in or touches an aeration hole:

(a) Ball in General Area. The player may take relief under Rule 16.1b. If the ball comes to rest in another aeration hole the player may take relief again under this Local Rule. (b) Ball on Putting Green. The player may take relief under Rule 16.1d.

But interference does not exist if the aeration hole only interferes with the player's stance or, on the putting green, on the player's line of play.

Penalty for Playing Ball from a Wrong Place in Breach of Local Rule: General Penalty Under Rule 14.7a.

Prohibiting Use of Certain Types of Shoes:

During a round, a player must not wear shoes with:

- Traditional spikes - that is, spikes having single or multiple points designed to penetrate deeply into the surface of the ground (regardless of whether made of metal, ceramic, plastic or other materials); or
- Spikes of any design that are entirely or partially made of metal, if such metal may come in contact with the course.

Penalty for Breach of Local Rule - see Rule 4.3.

Winter Rules

Teeing Areas:

Where used, a tee mat defines the *teeing area*. You must, when starting the hole, stand on it and play from it.

Penalty: General Penalty. In stroke play, proceed under Rule 6.1b(2).

Lift Clean and Place:

When a player's ball lies in the general area of the course, the player may take free relief once by placing the original ball or another ball in 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:
- Limits on Location of Relief Area:
  - 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 Rules 14.2b(2) and 14.2e.

Procedure for Bunker play:

Mark ,Lift and Clean your ball in the bunker . Rake the bunker and place your ball as near as possible to your original mark.

If the player fails to mark the position of the ball before lifting it, moves the ball-marker prior to putting the ball back into play or moves the ball in any other manner, such as rolling it

with a club, he incurs a penalty of one stroke.

Compulsory Use of Fairway Mats:

When any part of a player's ball lies in the general area cut to fairway height or less, and the player is not making a stroke with a putter, the player **must** take free relief by lifting the ball and placing it on an artificial mat, then playing it from the mat. The mat must be placed over the spot where the ball came to rest.

If the ball will not stay on the mat, the player must try placing it a second time. If it still will not stay, the mat must be moved to the nearest spot, no nearer the hole, where the ball will stay on the mat. If a tee is used to secure the mat, the ball must not be placed on the tee. If the ball on the mat is accidentally moved before a stroke is made, there is no penalty and the ball must be place again on the mat.

For the purposes of this rule the area of "first cut" is also to be treated as fairway and a mat must be used. If you are in doubt use the mat.

Only balls that come to rest in the fairway (or any general area cut to fairway height) must be placed on a fairway mat . Balls lying in the rough must be played as per the lift clean and place local rule listed above . However , players may choose to use a fairway mat in the rough if they wish , provided the ball is placed on the spot where it came to rest and the mat does not improve the line of play beyond what relief would normally allow.

Penalty for breach: Any player that plays their ball from the fairway without a mat incurs a General penalty — loss of hole in match play or two strokes in stroke play.

Note: General Area :The area of the course that covers all of the course **except** for the other four defined areas: (1) the teeing area the player must play from in starting the hole he or she is playing, (2) all penalty areas, (3) all bunkers, and (4) the putting green of the hole the player is playing.

The *general area* includes:

- All teeing locations on the course other than the teeing area, and
- All wrong greens.