

It has now been three months since the new Rules of Golf have been in effect, and we are confident that all of you are accustomed to the calling the flood control channel and the pond by 14 Green *penalty areas* and not water hazards. In addition to the changes to the USGA's Rules, the SGCC Golf Rules Committee has made some changes to our Local Rules to keep in step with the new USGA Rules, and to address several new changes on our golf course. Below are some of the changes to the USGA Rules and the SGCC Local Rules that you should keep in mind when playing our course:

The Flood Control Channel: The flood control channel is a red *penalty area*. As before this means that no matter where your ball enters the flood control channel you can drop your ball within two (2) club lengths of the spot the ball last entered the flood control channel, so long as that spot is no closer to the hole. **We have not** adopted a local rule that allows lateral relief on the opposite side of a red *penalty area*. So if your ball is in the flood control channel and you are taking lateral relief under USGA Rule 17.1d(3), the *relief area* will always be on the side of the flood control channel where you ball last entered.

USGA's Model Local Rule for an Alternative to Stroke and Distance: There has been a lot of discussion in social media about USGA Model Local Rule E-5, which provides an alternative to the stroke and distance penalty for a ball that is *out of bounds* or cannot be found. The SGCC Golf Rules Committee **has not adopted this local rule**. Accordingly, if you believe your ball may be *out of bounds* or *lost* outside a *penalty area*, then announce and play a provisional ball in accordance with Rule 18.3b.

Cart Paths: As a reminder, all cart paths (even those that do not have wooden or composite borders) are *immovable obstructions* and you are entitled to free relief under Rule 16.1 and Local Rule 4.

New Landscaping Adjacent to 18 Green: In an effort to improve the quality of the turf grass on and around 18 Green, the Green Committee has removed the trees that previously surrounded 18 Green. In their place, the Green Committee has planted and mulched ___ new *potocarpus macrophyllus* trees to screen this area from the adjacent businesses and roadways. At the present time, each tree is supported by two (2) stakes that will remain until the root structures of these plants fully mature. Ordinarily these stakes would be *immovable obstructions* from which free relief is allowed. However, allowing a player to escape the consequences of hitting a poor shot simply because his or her ball is adjacent to one of these temporary stakes is antithetical to Rule 1.1. Accordingly, the stakes adjacent to the *potocarpus* trees surrounding 18 Green have been deemed *integral objects* from which there is no free relief, and if your ball ends up in this area, your only options are to play the ball as it lies, or declare the ball unplayable and take relief under one of the options provided in Rule 19.2.

In addition to the above, we have deleted several local rules that are no longer necessary, as the contents of those local rules are now contained in the USGA's Rules (i.e., relief for an embedded ball anywhere in the *general area*, prohibiting play from the

practice green to the right of the 2nd and 9th holes, no penalty for accidental movement of a ball on the putting green and allowing the use of distance measuring devices).

As always a copy of the Local Rules has been posted on the bulletin boards in the men's and ladies' locker rooms and adjacent to the First Tee. The Local Rules are also available on the Club's website.

SGCC Golf Rules Committee