

RAINTREE MEN'S GOLF LEAGUE RULES GOVERNING PLAY

Pursuant to United States Golf Association (U.S.G.A.) Rule 33-8, the committee for the Tuesday Raintree Men's Golf League has adopted local rules to govern all play. The following rules have been so adopted:

1. **OTHER LOCAL RULES.** Except as is otherwise herein provided, the local rules of Raintree Golf and Country Club shall govern all play. The said local rules may be printed or otherwise posted, and include but are not limited to prohibiting any person from bringing any alcoholic beverages on the course. Subject to change by the League's Board, any rules stated in the league letter for the league year, which are not inconsistent with these rules, are hereby incorporated by reference.

2. **TEES.**

a. White tees will be used for everyone below the age of 70. 70 and above Red Tees.

b. A mulligan is permitted only on the first shot you play. A mulligan must be announced and, once announced, becomes the player's ball in play.

3. **IMPROVING LIE.** You may improve your lie, but not your position, "through the green" by one club length without penalty; provided, however, for the purpose of determining "position" with regard to trees, any ball within one (1) club length of a tree must be played as it lies or, at the election of the player, may be moved as on an "unplayable lie" with one (1) stroke penalty except as otherwise herein provided.

4. **IMMOVEABLE OBSTRUCTION:** The metal out of bound fences on holes #5, #6, and #16 are deemed immovable obstructions per Rule 24-2 page 91. Player must drop within one club length of and not nearer the hole than the nearest point of relief.

5. **CART PATH DRAINAGE DITCHES – PREFERRED LIES** Preferred lies as described in Appendix 1 page 128 in the rules of the USGA, will apply to holes #3, #5, #7, #15, #18. The rule states "a ball lying within the ditch on holes, 3, 5, 7 and 18 may be lifted, without penalty and cleaned. Before lifting the ball, the player must mark its position. Having lifted the ball, he must place it on a spot within two club lengths of the fairway side of the cart path edge and not nearer the hole than where it originally lay, that is not in a hazard and not on a putting green." On holes #3, #5, #7 and #15 the ground between cart path and Out of Bounds is all considered Cart Path Drainage Ditch and entitled relief as stated. On holes #18 the margin of the cart path drainage ditch is defined by measuring two club lengths from low point of ditch at ball location.

6. **OUT OF BOUNDS/LOST BALL – (Two options to choose from)**

Regular Stroke and Distance Rule Option

Any ball hit past the white stakes, if any, right or left of any fairway, or past any fence, shall be out of bounds. The player shall play another ball under penalty of one (1) stroke, as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was last played. (Rule 27-1).

1. Whether hit from the tee or the fairway, if there is any doubt whether the ball may be out of bounds the player shall hit a provisional ball. Assuming a player hits a ball out of bounds and pursuant to this rule hits another ball, he is hitting three (3).

2. If two balls in succession are hit out of bounds, the player shall play the third ball at that point nearest where the second ball went out of bounds; in such event the player shall take five (5) strokes representing penalties and distance and is hitting 6 from the location nearest where the second ball went out of bounds. If this occurs from outside the tee box add the appropriate strokes to the above mentioned scenario based on when the sequence begins.

b. **Provisional Ball.** Whenever there is a concern that a ball may be lost or out of bounds a player should play another ball provisionally as near as possible to the spot from which the original ball was played. The player must inform his opponent of such action before searching for a ball out of bounds. The player incurs a penalty of one (1) stroke if the original ball, and for each previous provisional ball, which is lost or is found out of bounds, and must then play the provisional ball.

c. **Lost Ball.** A lost ball or ball out of bounds should not be looked for longer than three (3) minutes.

OB/Lost Ball Local Rule Option. The Board has approved of using the new optional local rule E-5.

When a player's ball has not been found or is *known or virtually* certain to be *out of bounds*, the player may proceed as follows rather than proceeding under *stroke and distance*.

For **two penalty strokes**, the player may take relief by *dropping* the original ball or another ball in this *relief area* (see Rule 14.3):

Two Estimated Reference Points:

a. **Ball Reference Point:** The point where the original ball is estimated to have:

- Come to rest on the *course*, or
- Last crossed the edge of the *course* boundary to go *out of bounds*.

b. **Fairway Reference Point:** The point of fairway of the hole being played that is nearest to the ball reference point, but is not nearer the *hole* than the ball reference point.

For purposes of this Local Rule, “fairway” means any area of grass in the *general area* that is cut to fairway height or less.

If a ball is estimated to be *lost* on the course or last crossed the edge of the course boundary short of the fairway, the fairway reference point may be a grass path or a teeing ground for the hole being played cut to fairway height or less.

Size of Relief Area Based on Reference Points: Anywhere between:

- A line from the *hole* through the ball reference point (and within two *club-lengths* to the outside of that line), and
- A line from the *hole* through the fairway reference point (and within two *club-lengths* to the fairway side of that line).

But with these limits:

Limits on Location of Relief Area:

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

Once the player puts a ball *in play* under this Local Rule:

- The original ball that was *lost* or *out of bounds* is no longer *in play* and must not be played.
- This is true even if the ball is found on the *course* before the end of the three-minute search time (see Rule 6.3b).

But the player may not use this option to take relief for the original ball when:

- That ball is *known or virtually certain* to have come to rest in a *penalty area*, or
- The player has played another ball provisionally under penalty of *stroke and distance* (see Rule 18.3).

A player may use this option to take relief for a provisional ball that has not been found or is known or virtually certain to be out of bounds.

7. **STROKES.** All strokes shall be counted in accordance with USGA Rules, provided that a player shall stop playing any hole when he has taken twice the number of strokes as par for that hole. subject to the aforesaid, all putts shall be holed out.

8. **RAIN OUTS.** The Board shall determine if there is a rain out, and a rain-out for one team is a rain-out for all teams. Likewise, if the course is closed for any reason on the date of league play, the match will be treated as a rain-out. During the regular season, rainouts will be made up on rain out dates as published and occurring before the playoffs; provided, if the number of make-up nights are less than the number of rainouts, for each additional rain out the teams will not make up the match and shall receive 5 points each (except that any team with a bye shall not receive points). During the playoffs, a rain out will be made up the next Tuesday evening for any pre-championship match, and the next available Saturday (as determined by the Country Club) for a championship match; provided, however, by agreement of the teams playing the championship match the rain-out may be played on another date agreeable to both teams.

9. **OBSTRUCTION.** Any ropes, chains, rocks or other objects installed as a barrier or as a sign to prevent use of or entry onto part of the course, and any rocks on a fairway or rough, are deemed to be an "obstruction" as defined by Rule 24. Rocks so used are deemed to be an immovable obstruction. Relief from these obstructions or interference thereby shall be obtained in the manner as prescribed by Rules 20 and 24 (generally, ball dropped from knee height within one (1) club length no nearer the hole, avoiding interference by the obstruction, and not in a hazard or a putting green).

10. **MATCHES.** A match is played between four players of each of two (2) teams. Matches are played for points, with a total of ten (10) points possible. Players will be classified for each team in accordance with their handicap for the Tuesday Night Men's League as the A, B, C or D player and the lowest net score (after handicap) of the respective players of each team in each class will earn two (2) points. The team with lowest net score will likewise earn an additional two (2) points. Individual and team scores shall be turned in after the match for recording.

(a) **Handicap.** Scores of all players for all matches shall be kept by the League's representative. A handicap for each player shall be determined using the USGA handicap formula:

(b) **Nine hole matches.** Both sides of the course will be used, alternating between the front nine (9) and the back nine (9) in accordance with the schedule. League play shall commence by a shotgun start of all opponents at the starting time¹ on Tuesday.

(c) **Pre-play. Not permitted.**

(d) **Contested Matches.** A contest of any match must be made before match scores are read on the evening of the match. A quorum of the Raintree Men's Golf League Board present will decide any contested matches.

(e) **Default.**²

1. **Failure to show.** If a team fails to have four (4) members play, the player(s) not playing who have the highest **handicap(s)** shall be deemed to default and forfeit their individual match; if two opponents default the teams split the points. If **one** player defaults for a team that team forfeits team points. In the first week or thereafter before a defaulting player establishes a Raintree Tuesday Night Men's Golf League handicap, if he is determined to be one of the players who defaults pursuant to the above, he shall be deemed for this purpose to have a zero handicap and his team automatically loses the points for team total. A team member who commences but intentionally fails to complete a match forfeits to his opponent and forfeits the "team" points.

2. **Failure to arrive timely.** A player who fails to timely arrive at the scheduled tee box for the match before his group leaves the tee box, shall if his handicap is 5 or below take par plus 2 strokes for the hole, if his handicap is 6 to 9 take par plus 3 strokes, and if his handicap is 10 or above shall take par plus 4 strokes for the hole. A player who does not arrive and meet his group for his match before they leave the second scheduled tee box shall be deemed in default and to forfeit his match as provided under "failure to show" above.

(f) **Play-offs.** No member of a team shall be qualified to play in the play-offs unless he has played a minimum of six (6) Tuesday evening rounds.

(g) **Ties.** Ties will be handled as follows:

1. **Individual match.** The two players split the 2 points.
2. **Team match during regular season.** If the team's respective net scores are tied they shall split the team score points.
3. **Teams at end of regular season.** If any two (2) or more teams are tied in points at the end of the regular season, the tie will be broken and their respective playoff position determined as follows, in the order as stated and only using a later means if the tie cannot be determined by a prior means:
 - A) Their head to head match during the regular season.
 - B) If they tied in their regular season match, then by comparing their respective scores as if they had played one another the last regular season match.
 - C) If both teams did not play the last night of regular season, or if they tied, then the team with
 - 1) The lowest net score of their respective A player the last night of regular season, if both teams played, and if they tied then
 - 2) The lowest net score of their Respective B player the last night of regular season, if both teams played, and if they tied then
 - 3) The lowest net score of their respective C player the last night of regular season, if both teams played, and if they tied then

¹ The starting time will be 5:00 p.m. unless otherwise designated by the League's Board.

² A team that defaults in 20% or more of its individual matches will not be permitted to participate as a team the following year.

- 4) The lowest net score of their respective D player the last night of regular season, if both teams played, and if they tied then.
- D) If none of the above determine the tie, then by a coin flip.
- 4. **Teams during the playoffs.** If teams tie a playoff match, the tie shall be determined as follows:
 - A) The lowest team net the night of the tie. If the teams net scores were tied, then
 - B) The team with
 - 1) The lowest net score of their respective A player the last night of regular season, if both teams played, and if they tied then
 - 2) The lowest net score of their Respective B player the last night of regular season, if both teams played, and if they tied then
 - 3) The lowest net score of their respective C player the last night of regular season, if both teams played, and if they tied then
 - 4) The lowest net score of their respective D player the last night of regular season, if both teams played, and if they tied then.
 - C) If not determined as provided above then by their regular season match, and if they tied in their regular season match then
 - D) if none of the above determine the tie, then by a coin flip.

11. **PURPOSE.** It is the purpose of the committee that these amendments to the U.S.G.A. Rules make play more enjoyable by providing allowances for particular circumstances peculiar to Raintree Country Club and the need of league members. It is our desire to keep play moving at a reasonable pace while accommodating circumstances within ordinary play.

League members are encouraged to continue our tradition of courtesy to all players on or that may later play the course, and to help maintain and improve the condition of the course, and to abide by all course rules.

(Revised 01/2023)