

QUICK REFERENCE - THREE RULES COMMONLY MISAPPLIED:

● Penalty Areas

- If you cannot find your ball or do not wish to play it when it has entered a penalty area (yellow stakes/lines or red stakes/lines), you may:
 1. Add a penalty stroke and drop and play another ball from where you last played (“stroke and distance”)
 2. Add a penalty stroke and drop and play a ball in the following manner (“back-on-the-line”): determine the spot where the ball crossed the margin of the hazard, stand on that spot facing the pin, and walk a line straight back from the pin, keeping the point the ball crossed the margin between you and the pin, moving as far back as you wish. Drop and play your ball.
- If your ball is in a penalty area with red stakes/lines, you also have a third option:
 3. Drop a ball within two club-lengths of where the ball last crossed the hazard margin, no nearer to the hole.

● Ball Lost or Out of Bounds

- If you think your ball may be lost or out of bounds, you may:
 1. Play another ball (provisional ball) from the place where your first ball was played. **NOT RECOMMENDED FOR HCAA PLAY**, as the next option is likely much better.
 2. (HCAA local rule and strongly recommended for HCAA play) - If you have determined the ball is lost or out of bounds, estimate the spot where your ball is lost or went out of bounds and then find the nearest fairway edge that is not nearer the hole than the estimated spot. Drop a ball in the fairway within two club-lengths of that fairway edge point or anywhere between there and the estimated spot where your ball is lost or went out of bounds. Add two penalty strokes. **OR**
 3. If you have determined the ball is lost or out of bounds add a penalty stroke to your score and play another ball from where you played your last shot.

CAUTION: If you **FIND** your ball, it is no longer lost. You must play it where it is **OR** declare it “unplayable” (see next section). For example, if you hit a ball deep into trees or bushes, you are likely better off not finding it, as declaring it “lost” likely gives you a better option (#2 in this section).

● Ball Unplayable

- If your ball is under a tree or in some other bad situation and you decide you cannot play it, add a penalty stroke and do one of the following:
 1. Go back to where you played the last shot and play a ball from there
 2. Measure two club-lengths from the unplayable lie but no closer to the hole, drop a ball and play from there
 3. Keep the unplayable lie between where you drop the ball and the hole, go back as far as you wish on a straight line and drop and play the ball.