

FARMINGTON WOODS GOLF CLUB

Senior Men's League

2025 Season Local Rules and Terms of Competition

Senior Men's League competitions are based predominantly on various forms of individual and team net stroke play. Assuring the integrity of net scoring is thus essential to the fairness of League competitions.

As a general principle, when a player is playing a round that is to be posted for handicapping purposes, he or she is required to play that round under the Rules of Golf. The Rules of Golf authorize the adoption of Local Rules to fit the particular needs of a course or competition, but Local Rules must be consistent with the policies established in Section 8, Model Local Rules, of the Rules of Golf. In addition, Local Rules must not go beyond the authorized Local Rules in ways which compromise the basic principles of the Rules of Golf. In short, if the League were to authorize play under Local Rules that differ significantly from the Rules of Golf, players could not properly post their scores for handicapping purposes.

With these principles in mind, Senior Men's League competitions are conducted in conformity to the Rules of Golf, Local Rules established for general play at Farmington Woods (which may be found in the FW Golf Handbook), and the following Local Rules established **for Senior Men's League events only**.

Local Rule F-9.2 – Relief from Exposed Rocks or Tree Roots

If a player's ball is in the general area and there is interference with the lie of the ball or the area of intended swing from exposed rocks or tree roots that are in a part of the general area, the exposed rocks or tree roots are treated as ground under repair. The player may take free relief under Rule 16.1b.

But interference does not exist if the exposed rocks or tree roots only interfere with the player's stance.

Local Rule F-12 – Animal Dung

At the player's option, dung from geese or other animals may be treated either as:

- A loose impediment that may be removed under Rule 15.1, or
- Ground under repair from which relief is allowed under Rule 16.1.

If dung is found on the putting green, the player may also remove the dung from the line of play. If doing so improves the line of play or other conditions affecting the stroke, there is no penalty under Rule 8.1a.

Local Rule F-17 – Relief from Roads and Paths

All roads and paths on the course, even if not artificially-surfaced, are treated as immovable obstructions from which free relief is allowed under Rule 16.1.

Local Rule H-5 – Team Members in the Same Group

Rule 10.2 is modified in this way:

Where two or more players from the same team are playing together in the same group, those players may ask for advice and receive advice from each other during the round.

Local Rule E-5 - Alternative to Stroke and Distance for Lost Ball or Ball Out of Bounds

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.
