

MNR County Week 28th-30th June 2021 at Hinckley Golf Club

Local Rules

The local rules in operation during this tournament at Hinckley Golf Club are on the England Golf 2021 Hard Card with the following amendments / additions / clarifications.

1. The boundary of the course is additionally defined by:
 - a. Practice range left of 2nd, 7th & 8th holes defined by white stakes.
 - b. Note the boundary on the 1st hole comes out from the hedge across the road defined with white stakes.
2. Penalty Areas
 - a. Generally, stakes identify the type of penalty area (red or yellow), see 6 below for status of stakes. The edges of penalty areas are defined where the ground breaks down to the depression that might hold water. The edge of penalty areas are additionally defined by the artificial objects (wood or concrete) at the end of culverts, no part of the object is in the penalty area.
 - b. Bridges pass through penalty areas and are inside the penalty area, culverts do not and are not. A culvert will contain an underground pipe and possibly an artificially surfaced path over it, they may separate two penalty areas.
 - c. The pond on the 11th & 12th holes is a NO PLAY ZONE which is defined by yellow stakes with red tops. It is a YELLOW penalty area, penalty relief must be taken under Rule 17.1. Additionally, players are not allowed to enter this area for health and safety reasons, doing so may be a breach of the **code of conduct**.
 - d. There is a NO PLAY ZONE red penalty area defined by red stakes with green tops to the left of 16th & 17th and right of the 5th hole. Penalty relief must be taken under Rule 17.1.
3. Ground Under Repair. As hard card, additionally:
 - a. Drainage scars, identified with dashed lines ending with () may be treated as GUR. Relief is not available when interference is for stance only.
4. Caddies Rule 10.3a is modified in this way: Caddies may only give advice and transport clubs using a bag or trolley. Appropriate social distancing and sanitising procedures must be maintained between player and caddy. Caddies must not handle clubs (no exceptions). **Breaches of these modifications will be processed through code of conduct.**
5. Flagstick. Players are required to leave the flagstick in the hole at all times
6. Artificial Objects and their golfing status within the Covid-19 environment
 - a. Boundary objects. Are immovable and should not be touched by hand. Any artificial object physically attached to a boundary object is an integral part of the course, no penalty free relief available.
 - b. Artificial objects designed to be movable are defined as immovable obstructions. These include distance and directional indicator posts. They should not be touched.

- c. Penalty area stakes, whether identifying or defining a penalty area are immovable obstructions. They should not be touched. Such stakes are No Play Zones (NPZ), unless integral objects (a. above). Relief for interference from stance or swing **MUST** be taken:
- i. When the ball is not in a penalty area in relation to the nearest point of complete relief (NPCR) in the same area as where the ball lies.
 - ii. When the ball is in a penalty area either:
 1. Under penalty following the relief options for a ball in a penalty area
 2. Without penalty in relation to the NPCR in the penalty area

7. Bunkers. Preferred lies

When a player's ball lies in a bunker the player may take free relief **ONCE** by placing the original or another ball in and playing it from this relief area:

- Reference point spot of the original ball
- Size of *relief area* measured from the reference point 6 inches **BUT**
 - Must not be nearer the *hole* than the reference point **AND**
 - Must be in the bunker

The relief area cannot be altered by smoothing sand, only by removing loose impediments. The ball can be cleaned, or another ball substituted. A ball is placed following rule 14.3, no pressing into sand.

8. Result of team match is officially announced when recorded and verified in the Championship office. Verification by both team captains.
9. **Unless noted the penalty for breach of a local rule is the general penalty.**
10. COVID-19. Breaches of the code of conduct specifically related to Covid-19 include but are not limited to the following:
- a. Social distancing. All players must abide by social distancing guidelines at all times and any instructions issued by either Hinckley GC or the tournament committee
 - b. The flagstick
 - i. Deliberately touching with hand or removing the flagstick from the hole. Players must leave the flagstick in the hole at all times
 - ii. Failing to centre the flagstick in the hole, in a safe manner, when requested by another player. Players may have the flagstick centred in the hole, in a safe manner that does not involve using a hand, even when using a glove or towel (for example by using a club). The centring of the flagstick is allowed while another player putts
 - c. Course furniture
 - i. Deliberately touching with hand any piece of course furniture.
 - ii. Playing shot after course furniture moved. General penalty.

Appendix A

Referees

A referee will be available for each match. As they are responsible for a group of individual matches their responsibilities are slightly restricted.

- Assistance will be given for a current situation (current hole) if requested.
- If no referee is available, the players can agree among themselves on the correct way to proceed. But cannot play two balls Rule 20.1b.
- If the players cannot agree and there is no referee available, then:
 - Contact the referee and wait.
 - If waiting is not possible then play can proceed but either side may 'request a ruling' by informing the opponents that they want a ruling. In certain circumstances the referee will be able to rule on the issue.

Foursomes & covid

It is strongly recommended that partners each have their own identified ball and only handle this ball. Each player will use their ball to start the holes requiring them to play from the teeing area. When reaching the putting green the 'owner' of the ball is responsible for marking, cleaning, replacing, picking up and picking out of the hole. Similarly, any procedure requiring the ball to be lifted during the play of a hole, should be undertaken by the 'owner' of the ball. If this would delay play another ball may be substituted for all occasions where the ball is not required to be replaced on the same spot.