

Winter Local Rules Notice

The Committee have approved a set of Temporary Local Rules that can be invoked either individually or in combination from time to time during the period 1 October to 30 April each year (the “Preferred Lies Period”), as attached to this notice.

1. Preferred Lies (closely mown areas)
2. Fairway Mats (closely mown areas)
3. Mats Everywhere (through the general area)

The implementation of one or more these rules, which are based on R&A Model Local Rules and CONGU Guidance on the Rules of Handicapping, will be at the discretion of the Club, as course/weather conditions dictate from time to time during the Preferred Lies Period.

Acceptable scores may continue to be submitted for handicap purposes EXCEPT where Mats Everywhere is in force.

The Club may also invoke the compulsory use of mats on some or all teeing areas from time to time without need for any specific local rule, as their use for teeing areas is accepted by CONGU as within the spirit of the Rules of Golf.

Also note that under the Rules of Golf (Rule 16.3), free relief within one club length not nearer the hole, is always given through the general area for an embedded ball, without any need for any specific local rule to be in place.

Note regarding the use of mats:

- Mats must be “Astroturf, or similar type”
- A putter may NOT be used off a mat
- The “6 inch rule” applying to Preferred Lies does NOT apply to mats

Note that the penalty for breach of any of these Local Rules is the General Penalty for each hole on which there is a breach, under Rule 14.7a, i.e., loss of hole in match play or two penalty strokes in stroke play.

Beeston Fields Golf Club

Winter Local Rule 1 - Preferred Lies on closely mown areas

Where the Club/Committee have invoked "Preferred Lies" at any time during the period 1st October to 30th April, the following local rule shall apply:

Short Form:

When a player's ball lies in a part of the general area cut to fairway height or less, the player may prefer the lie within 6 inches, not nearer the hole. See Model Local Rule E-3 in the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf for details of how this must be done

Long Form (Model Local Rule E-3)

When a player's ball lies in a part of the general area cut to fairway height or less, the player may take free relief once by placing the original ball or another ball in and playing it from this relief area:

- *Reference Point: Spot of the original ball.*
- *Size of Relief Area Measured from Reference Point: 6 inches from the reference point, but with these limits:*
- *Limits on Location of Relief Area:*
 - *Must not be nearer the hole than the reference point, and*
 - *Must be in the general area.*

In proceeding under this Local Rule, the player must choose a spot to place the ball and use the procedures for replacing a ball under Rules 14.2b(2) and 14.2e.

Beeston Fields Golf Club
Winter Local Rule 2 - Fairway Mats

Where the Club/Committee have invoked “Fairway Mats” at any time during the period 1st October to 30th April, the following local rule shall apply:

When a player’s ball lies in a part of the general area cut to fairway height or less and a putter is not being used for the stroke, the ball must be lifted, placed on and played from an Astroturf, or similar type, of mat. The mat must be placed as near as possible to where the ball originally lay, and the ball must be placed on the mat. The ball may be cleaned when lifted.

If a ball when placed rolls off the mat, the player must try to place it a second time. If the ball again does not stay on the mat, the mat must be moved to the nearest spot, not nearer the hole, where the ball will come to rest on the mat when placed. If the player accidentally causes the ball on the mat to move before a stroke is made, there is no penalty and the ball must be placed again on the mat.

If a tee is used to secure the mat into the ground, the ball must not be placed on the tee.

(Recommended wording – CONGU Guidance on the WHS Rules of Handicapping as applied within GB&I – Appendix H)

Notes:

- A putter may NOT be used off a mat
- “General area” means all parts of the course excluding the teeing area of the hole being played (i.e. the area in which a tee peg is permitted), penalty areas, bunkers and greens. A mat MUST be used on all closely mown areas within the general area. In addition, mats must be used for any tee shot, where specified as compulsory by the Club/Committee
- Mats must be “Astroturf, or similar type” i.e., must aim to mimic a grass surface. Accordingly, the older solid plastic launcher type mats (e.g. Smart Mat®) are NOT permitted.
- The “6 inch rule” applying to Preferred Lies does NOT apply to mats which must be placed where the ball originally lay

Beeston Fields Golf Club

Winter Local Rule 3 - Mats through the General Area

Where the Club/Committee have invoked “Mats Everywhere” at any time during the period 1st October to 30th April, the following local rule shall apply:

When a player’s ball lies in the general area and a putter is not being used for the stroke, the ball must be lifted, placed on and played from an Astroturf, or similar type, of mat. The mat must be placed as near as possible to where the ball originally lay, and the ball must be placed on the mat. The ball may be cleaned when lifted.

If a ball when placed rolls off the mat, the player must try to place it a second time. If the ball again does not stay on the mat, the mat must be moved to the nearest spot, not nearer the hole, where the ball will come to rest on the mat when placed. If the player accidentally causes the ball on the mat to move before a stroke is made, there is no penalty and the ball must be placed again on the mat.

If a tee is used to secure the mat into the ground, the ball must not be placed on the tee

Notes:

- **When this Temporary Local Rule is in force no scores may be submitted for WHS Handicapping purposes**
- A putter may NOT be used off a mat
- “General area” means all parts of the course excluding the teeing area of the hole being played (i.e. the area in which a tee peg is permitted), penalty areas, bunkers and greens. A mat MUST be used throughout the general area. In addition, mats must be used for any tee shot, where specified as compulsory by the Club/Committee
- Mats must be “Astroturf, or similar type” i.e., must seek to mimic a grass surface. Accordingly, the older solid plastic launcher type mats (e.g. “Smart Mat[®]) are NOT permitted
- The “6 inch rule” applying to Preferred Lies does NOT apply to mats which must be placed where the ball originally lay