**HIGH MEADOW RANCH LADIES GOLF ASSOCIATION**

**LOCAL RULES**

**Effective April 21, 2022**

**USGA Rules apply at all times** with the following Local Rules and Exceptions:

Check out the following websites for explanations on all the USGA Rules of Golf:

<http://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/rules-hub/rules-modernization/golfs-new-rules.html>

<http://www.usga.org/content/dam/usga/images/rules/rules-modernization/golf-new-rules/Rules%20of%20Golf%20for%202019%20(Final).pdf>

1. **Ready Golf.**  
     
   All participating Members and Guests are expected to play ready golf at all times and it is now an official USGA rule. If a shot is not going to interfere, by sight or sound, with another’s lie, proceed with hitting. Be “Ready.”
2. **Free Drop** **(without penalty) –** one club length, no nearer to the hole, from:
3. All active anthills and exposed roots;
4. All yardage markers;
5. All French drains and drainage channels;
6. Deep ruts made by heavy equipment;
7. Hardpan and graveled areas next to cart paths, on fairway side; and
8. If ball lands in a divot that has not been previously repaired.
9. **Local Rules (with penalties)**
10. On holes number 2 and 4, if your ball goes in the hazard you are allowed to take a drop laterally on either side and no closer to the pin. **This is a one stroke penalty.**
11. On hole number 18, if you go into the hazard by the green, you are allowed to take a drop in the designated drop zone on the other side of the wall by the green. **This is a one stroke penalty.**
12. **Sand trap that was not raked**

A participating Member or Guest may rake the around the area of her ball if it lands in a footprint or non-raked compacted area that is unplayable. Before she moves her ball, the participating Member or Guest must tell the other participating Members or Guests in her group that she is raking and why. The ball must be replaced to the exact spot that it came to rest.

1. **Local rules for Out of Bounds or Lost outside of a penalty Area**

A new Local Rule will provide an alternative to stroke-and-distance relief for a ball that is lost outside a penalty area or out of bounds.

**The player gets two penalty strokes when using this relief option, so that the relief is comparable to what could have been achieved if the player had taken stroke-and-distance relief.**

**Text of Model Local Rule** “When a player’s ball cannot be 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 a substituted ball in this relief area (see Rule 14.3):

Two Estimated Reference Points:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Size of Relief Area Based on Reference Points: Anywhere between:  
     
    \* A line from the hole through the ball reference point (or within two club- lengths to the outside of that line), and   
     
    \* A line from the hole through the fairway reference point (or within two club lengths to the outside 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.   
  
**But the player may not use this option when:**

\* The 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.

The player also has the option of hitting a provisional ball if she thinks her ball may have gone out of bounds. She must first declare that she is hitting a provisional ball to the other members of her group. If her original ball is found in bounds, she must play her original ball. If she cannot find her original ball or it is out of bounds, she must play the provisional ball and cannot take the above options. Her provisional ball is lying 3 and she is hitting her 4th stroke (one stroke penalty).