

3.0 USGA AND LOCAL RULES FOR RBIMGC TOURNAMENTS

(Rev Q 8/23/2026)

Rules are designed to be applied uniformly so all players are on an equal footing. At the RBIMGC tournaments, USGA RULES APPLY AT ALL TIMES! The following local rules have been approved by the RB Inn Professional Golf Staff and the Board of Directors of the RBIMGC:

3.1 THE FOLLOWING LOCAL RULES ARE ALWAYS IN EFFECT FOR RBIMGC TOURNAMENTS UNLESS SPECIFICALLY MODIFIED OR WAIVED BY THE TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE.

3.1.1. Drainage channels.

The main drainage channels which cross the fairways of holes 1, 2 and 18 and the narrow channels which run parallel to holes 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 and across hole 17 near the green are defined on the scorecard as obstructions except where identified as yellow or red penalty areas by yellow or red stakes. The player MUST take relief without penalty as permitted by rule 16-1 with the nearest point of relief determined relative to where the ball lies in the obstruction. If the ball is lost in the obstruction, relief is taken relative to the point where the ball last entered the obstruction per rule 16-1e.

Note 1. It is a question of fact whether a ball, which has not been found after having been struck toward an obstruction, is in the obstruction. In order to apply this Rule, it must be known or virtually certain that the ball is in the obstruction. In the absence of such knowledge or certainty, the player must proceed under rule 18 (lost ball)

Note 2. The definition of the drainage channel which crosses hole 2 as an obstruction, extends to the left past the hole 3 teeing area up to the point where the channel is defined as a lateral penalty area.

3.1.2. Immovable Obstructions Close to Putting Green (e.g., Sprinkler Heads, Green edging barrier) interfering with an intended line of putt.

This local rule provides additional relief near the green from an obstruction on the line of play.

If a ball lies through the green and an immovable obstruction within two club-lengths of the putting green and within two club-lengths of the ball intervenes on the line of play between the ball and the hole, the player may take relief as follows:

The ball must be lifted and dropped at the nearest point to where the ball lay that (a) is not nearer the hole, (b) avoids intervention and (c) is not in a hazard or on a putting green. If the player's ball lies on the putting green and an immovable obstruction within two club-lengths of the putting green intervenes on his line of play, the player may take relief as follows:

The ball must be lifted and placed at the nearest point to where the ball lay that (a) is not nearer the *hole*, (b) avoids intervention and (c) is not in a *hazard*.

Exception: A player may not take relief under this Local Rule if interference by anything other than the immovable obstruction makes the stroke clearly impracticable.

3.1.3. Fan near the green on #3 hole.

The fan beside the green on hole #3 is designated as a temporary obstruction. A player

may take free relief if the fan interferes with his stance, swing path or line of play. Relief is taken by dropping the ball within one club length of nearest point of relief from the interference but no nearer to the hole.

3.1.4. Drop zone and yellow or red penalty area issues.

The Committee may establish an additional option when the Committee considers that it is not feasible or practicable to proceed exactly in conformity with Rule 17-1 (yellow or red penalty areas). If a ball is in or it is known or virtually certain that a ball that has not been found is in the yellow or red penalty area the player may:

- a. proceed under Rule 17-1d or
- b.1. For hole #4, as an additional option after hitting into the penalty area, a player may use the drop zone located past the maintenance yard on the lower level.
- b.2 For hole #11, as an additional option after hitting into the penalty area, a player may use the drop zone located left of the green.

3.1.5. Flowerbeds and Newly sodded areas.

Relief must be taken from certain flowerbeds/cultivated areas and re-sodded areas on the course which are defined as ground under repair and which are located as follows:

- 3.1.5.1 Around various hole monuments.
- 3.1.5.2 Beyond the lake on the left of hole #1 which is also on the left of hole 18.
- 3.1.5.3 Beyond the green on hole 6.
- 3.1.5.4 To the right of the green on hole 8
- 3.1.5.5. To the right of the green on hole 9.
- 3.1.5.5 On the left side of the fairway to the left of the cart path towards the green on hole #10.

Re-sodded areas may or may not be identified by white lines.

NOTE 1. Relief from ground under repair is taken at the nearest point of relief which is determined by where the ball lies in the ground under repair and not relative to where the ball last crossed the edge of the flower bed. The nearest point could be behind the flowerbed. If the ball is lost in the condition, then relief is taken relative to where the ball last crossed the margin of the area,

3.1.6. MAINTENANCE PATHS.

Unsurfaced paths which are used for maintenance purposes and which are not out of bounds are defined as obstructions and relief may be taken without penalty in accordance with rule 16. These paths are to the right and the rear of the green on hole #1, on the left side of hole #8 from where the cart path swings across the fairway to past the green and to the left of Hole #12 approaching the green. Relief is taken without penalty at the nearest point of relief.

3.1.7. Additional relief for a ball out of bounds or lost outside of a penalty area..

“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 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.

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 (see Rule 18.3)."

3.1.8. Out of bounds.

Out of bounds on the course is generally defined by white stakes or white lines. If stakes are used, the out of bounds is defined by the inside face of the stake at ground level. Where a white line is used to define OOB, the line is out of bounds. Where both are used, the stakes identify out of bounds and the line defines out of bounds. A ball is OOB when all of it is OOB. Player may stand OOB to play a ball lying within bounds.

For RBIMGC events, out of bounds are defined for certain holes as follows:

3.1.8.1. Hole 14. OOB is defined by the left edge of the cart path from the tee to the point where the ice-plant ends and by white stakes beyond that point. Where there is an exit path into the residential area, out of bounds is defined by a white line across the path or

white stakes.

3.1.8.2. Hole 16. Out of bounds is defined by the left edge of the curb on the left side of the cart path.

3.1.8.3. Hole 17. Out of bounds is defined by the left edge of the cart path from the tee up to the end of the hedge adjacent to the bunkers on the left of the fairway.

3.1.9.0. The area from the cross-over bridge from hole #3 up to and including the bathroom and maintenance area side of the cart path is a hazard. Any ball hit into this area from hole #4 or #8 will incur a one stroke penalty.

3.1.9. Margin of the red stake penalty area to the right of hole 9

The margin of the red staked penalty area of hole 9 is defined as the right outside edge of the main cart path starting from the red stake at the point where the main cart path approaches the penalty area and turns left to run close to and parallel to the penalty area. Where the path from the cart barn and the main cart path intersect, the rough concrete beyond the edge of the main cart path is in the penalty area.

3.1.10. Margin of the red stake area which is around the open area on the left side of the hole 17 past the first set of bunkers.

The area of bushes around the open area to the left side of hole 17 and which continues past the green is identified as a red hazard by red stakes. The red hazard is defined by the red stakes around the open grass area up to where the bushes closely border the cart path. Beyond the last red stake at the end of the open area, the hazard is defined by the left edge of the cart path.

3.1.11. STAKED TREES.

Staked trees and any supporting wires or ropes are defined as immovable obstructions. If the obstruction interferes with the players stance or the area of his intended swing he may proceed to drop a ball within one club length of the nearest point of relief without penalty.

3.1.12 Ball accidentally moved on the putting green. Rule removed and left blank

3.1.13. Aeration Holes

Through the green, a ball that comes to rest in or on an aeration hole may be lifted without penalty, cleaned and dropped as near as possible to the spot where it lay but not nearer the hole. The ball when dropped must first strike a part of the course through the green. On the putting green, a ball that comes to rest in or on an aeration hole may be placed at the nearest spot not nearer the hole that avoids the situation.

3.2 THE FOLLOWING LOCAL RULES WILL BE IN EFFECT WHEN INVOKED BY THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR FOR A SPECIFIC EVENT, THEY MUST BE NOTED IN THE TOURNAMENT INSTRUCTIONS AND IF FEASIBLE ON THE SCORECARD

3.2.1. PREFERRED LIES / WINTER RULES

When any part of the player's ball touches part of the general area cut to fairway height or less, the ball may be lifted and cleaned without penalty. Before lifting the ball, the player must mark its position. Having lifted the ball, the player must replace it on a spot within two club-lengths of the original spot, not nearer the hole, that is in the general area (not in a penalty area, bunker, tee box, or putting green).

A player may replace his ball only once, and it is in play when it has been placed. If the ball fails to stay on the spot in which it was placed, the player must try a second time. If the ball again does not stay on that spot, the player must replace the ball by placing it on the nearest spot where the ball will stay at rest, **but** with these limits: The ball must not be nearer the hole and must be in the general area.

After a ball has been placed and is in play under this Local Rule, if the player then proceeds under another Rule that provides relief, this Local Rule may be used again.

If the player fails to mark the position of the ball before lifting it, moves the ball-marker prior to putting the ball back into play or moves the ball in any other manner, such as rolling it with a club, he incurs a penalty of one stroke.

3.2.2. FREE RELIEF IN A BUNKER..

A ball lying in a bunker may be lifted, the sand may be raked and the ball replaced on approximately its original position without penalty.

3.2.3 UNMARKED GROUND UNDER REPAIR ON CERTAIN HOLES.

Certain holes have areas of thin grass conditions and those areas may be played as Ground Under Repair (Rule 16) even if not marked with white lines. A player may proceed under rule 16 and take free relief within one club length of the nearest point of relief which is no nearer to the hole in the following areas of the course:

- The second half of the fairway of hole 12 which is marked as cart path only
- Anywhere on the fairway of Hole 16.
- In the fairway of Hole 18 from the tee to the concrete drainage ditch.

Note that a player is not entitled to relief **When it is clearly Unreasonable to Play Your Ball**. There is no relief when playing your ball as it lies is clearly unreasonable because of something other than an *abnormal course condition* (such as, when you are standing on an *immovable obstruction* but you are unable to make a *stroke* because of where your ball lies in a bush), or when interference exists only because you choose a club, type of *stance* or swing or direction of play that is clearly unreasonable under the circumstance