

HERITAGE OAKS LOCAL RULES 1/1/24

The 2023 USGA Rules of Golf apply except as modified by these Local Rules.

Out of Bounds – Defined by white stakes and/or white lines, the fence to the left of Holes #2 and #3, and the course-side edge of all residential yards and public roadways. On Hole #18, the cart path to the left of the Putting Green is a Boundary Object, and the boundary is defined by the course-side of the cart path curb. That section of cart path is not an Immovable Obstruction. *A ball is not Out of Bounds anywhere if a portion of the ball touches the course. (Rule 18.2)*

For Out of Bounds or Lost Balls, the Alternative to Stroke and Distance rule E5 is in effect. If you did not hit a provisional ball, don't go back under stroke and distance. Save time and drop in the fairway the same distance from the hole with 2 penalty strokes. It's the same result as a good provisional ball.

Penalty Areas – Defined by red stakes and/or red lines. If a player's ball is not found, it must be Known or Virtually Certain the ball is in the Penalty Area. (Rule 17.1c) Otherwise, the ball is Lost. (Rule 18.2)

Where a red line is painted on a cart path, the entire cart path remains an Immovable Obstruction. (Rule 16)
The Penalty Area begins where the outside edge of cart path ends. A ball at rest on the cart path is deemed not in the Penalty Area, even if touching the red line.

No Play Zones – Defined by green lines, Environmentally Sensitive Areas on Holes #4-6-7-8-12-13 are No Play Zones in Penalty Areas. *White stakes and signs along these No Play Zones are not Boundary Objects and are informational only.* Please do not enter the No Play Zone to retrieve your ball or play a stroke. Relief from a No Play Zone is **MANDATORY** with a 1-stroke penalty. (Rule 17.1e). **IF A BALL IS ON THE COURSE OUTSIDE THE NO PLAY ZONE, THERE IS NOT FREE RELIEF FOR OVERHANGING TREES OR OTHER INTERFERENCE.**

ON HOLE #8 ONLY: If a ball played from a Teeing Area does not carry the Penalty Area, a ball may be dropped in the fairway-side Dropping Zone as an extra option with a 1-stroke penalty. (Model Local Rule E-1.1)

Sand Waste Areas – On several holes, areas of sand are in the General Area and are not Bunkers. Touching the sand is permitted, including practice swings, and grounding the club. **EXAMPLES:** Hole #1 (left & right near putting green) Hole #8 (right side of fairway) Hole #14 (left side of fairway) and Hole #18 (right side of fairway).

Ground Under Repair – Defined by white lines on the course. (Rule 16)

Immovable Obstructions Close to Putting Greens – If a player has an Immovable Obstruction such as a sprinkler head on their Line of Play, the player may take a free drop in the General Area at the nearest point of complete relief, no nearer the hole. This will allow a player to roll the ball without interference using a putter or any other club. This additional option is available only when the sprinkler head or other Obstruction is **within 2-club lengths of the Putting Green**, the ball is **within 2-club lengths of the Obstruction**, and both the Obstruction and the ball lie in the General Area cut to fairway height or less. (Model Local Rule F-5.2) Otherwise, see Rule 16 for relief from Immovable Obstructions.

Staked Trees – Relief without penalty may be taken if stakes or wires interfere with the player's intended stance or swing. There is **no relief for line of sight** unless there is also interference with the player's stance or swing. (Rule 16)

Embedded Ball – When a player's ball is embedded in the General Area, relief without penalty is permitted. (Rule 16.3) However, there is no free relief for a ball embedded in a Penalty Area, in a Bunker, or in any sand in the General Area not cut to fairway height or less.

Allowed Uses of Equipment – Use of distance-measuring devices, mobile phone apps, and the GPS on the golf carts is permitted in all forms of play. (Rule 4.3a)