

HERITAGE OAKS LOCAL RULES 2/11/25

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. *A ball is not Out of Bounds anywhere if a portion of the ball touches the course. (Rule 18.2)* On Hole #18, the cart path to the left of the Putting Green is under construction and is **NOT Out of Bounds** during construction. If the temporary fences interfere with your stance or swing, or a ball is beyond the fence, you are entitled to FREE RELIEF, within one club-length but not nearer the hole. (Rule 16.1b)

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, do not go back under stroke and distance. Save time and drop in the fairway the same distance from the hole with 2 penalty strokes. It is 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.

Integral Objects - Artificial walls and pilings when located in penalty areas or in or adjacent to bunkers are Integral Objects, NOT Immovable Obstructions. THERE IS NO FREE RELIEF. Penalty Area (Rule 17) or Unplayable Ball (Rule 19)

No Play Zones (NPZ) – 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 NPZ 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 FREE RELIEF FOR OVERHANGING TREES OR OTHER INTERFERENCE IN THE NPZ. (Rule 16.1)**

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).

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)