

NOTTAWASAGA MEN'S GOLF ASSOCIATION
NMGA LOCAL RULES (Updated for 2025 Season)

1. The Rules of Golf Canada will govern play unless modified herein by a Local Rule.
2. Lift, clean, and place procedure will be posted on the first tee, when in effect.
3. Gimmies within 12" of the hole are allowed to speed up play except in the Club Championship, Match Play, and other competitive events.
4. A ball crossing a road is deemed to be "out of bounds".
5. A ball hitting a hydro wire, or its guide wire, may be replayed without penalty.
6. If your ball goes into the water on Ridge holes #13 or 18 or Valley holes #5, 8, or 17, you may take your next shot, under penalty of one stroke, from the drop zone. On Valley #17, if your ball goes over the fence and comes to rest on the nature trail or the area above, you may take your next shot, under penalty of one stroke, from the drop zone. This rule applies to all NMGA events.
7. Hole #13, 14, &15 Valley Course – Preferred lies are in effect on the fairway. If the ball lands on a bare patch in the fairway, you may move it to a grassy spot, no nearer the hole.
8. Valley hole #12 - A ball coming to rest on the cart path or to the right of the cart path may be dropped on the fairway side of the path, within one (1) club-length of the nearest point of relief, not nearer the hole without penalty. If the ball is in the water, you may drop on the fairway side of the path, within one (1) club-length of the nearest point of relief, not nearer the hole with a penalty of one (1) stroke.
9. Unmowed areas adjacent to the fairway, if not staked, should be treated as red staked.
10. Unmowed grass on the right at 150-180 yards on Ridge #11 (if not marked) is deemed to be Ground Under Repair (GUR). If the ball is in, lost in, the GUR, drop no near the hole with no penalty.
11. Traps
 - a. If the trap is in poor condition you may lift, rake, and place your ball.
 - b. If there is water in the trap you may place your ball in a dry area in the trap. If there is no dry area you may drop behind the trap with no penalty.
12. When a player's ball is lost or out of bounds, the player may drop a ball on the edge of the fairway nearest to, but not nearer the hole, to where the ball left the General Area with a penalty of 2 strokes, rather than proceeding under "stroke-and-distance".

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 a provisional ball under penalty of "stroke-and-distance", or
 - During Club Championship, Match Play, or Briar/Captain's Cup.
13. New choice of tees Valley #17 and Ridge #13. As both these holes have been altered with different tee box positions, ALL B & C flight members may choose to play the FORWARD TEES (Red) instead of the Whites without penalty or handicap adjustments. All A flight members must continue to use the White tees as normal.

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RULES OF PLAY

The rules of the game of golf approved for use in Canada are established by Golf Canada.

Some common examples of Golf Canada rules follow:

1. All players should put an identifying mark on their balls.
2. WHITE STAKES, FENCES AND ROADWAYS define "out of bounds".
3. YELLOW STAKES define Yellow Penalty Areas.
 - a. If a ball lies in a Yellow Penalty Area, the player may take "stroke-and-distance" relief from where the previous stroke was made, or he may take "back-on-the-line" relief from the point where the ball last crossed the edge of the penalty area.
PENALTY – ONE (1) STROKE (Rule 17)
4. RED STAKES define Red Penalty Areas.
 - b. If the ball lies in a Red Penalty Area, the player may take "stroke-and-distance" relief, or "back-on-the-line" relief, or "lateral" relief within two (2) club-lengths from where the ball last crossed the edge of the penalty area not nearer the hole.
PENALTY – ONE (1) STROKE (Rule 17)
5. If a ball may be "lost" or "Out of Bounds", the player should play a provisional ball from the spot where the original ball was played. If the original ball is not "Lost" or "Out of Bounds", the player shall abandon the provisional ball and continue play with the original ball without penalty.
PENALTY – ONE (1) STROKE (Rule 18)
If a provisional ball was not played the Local Rules give an additional option. See Local Rule 12.
6. A ball may be moved one (1) club-length, not nearer the hole, from the nearest point of relief, without penalty, from all staked trees, ground under repair or construction, electrical controls, sprinkler systems, cart paths, buildings, staked shrubs, temporary water and yardage markers, if your swing or stance is obstructed. (Rule 16)
7. If a player deems his ball "unplayable", he shall under penalty of one (1) stroke:
 - c. Play his next shot from the spot where the ball was last played ("stroke-and-distance"), or
 - d. Drop a ball behind where the ball lay, keeping that point between the hole and where the ball is dropped, with no limit as to how far behind that point the ball may be dropped ("back-on-the-line"), or
 - e. Drop a ball within two (2) club-lengths of either side of where the ball lays, not nearer the hole ("lateral" relief).

If the ball is unplayable in a "bunker". The player may proceed under a, b, or c. If option b or c is elected, the ball must be dropped in the "bunker". Another option, with a penalty of two (2) strokes, he may take "back-on-the-line" relief outside the bunker.

A ball cannot be declared unplayable in a "Penalty Area". (Rule 19)