



Date: February 17, 2014

MEMORANDUM

To: British Columbia Golf Members, Member Clubs,
Member Club Captains, Member Club Handicap Committees &
Zones Committees

From: Susan White, Senior Manager Field Operations

Subject: Active Season & Preferred Lies

Once again we are getting ready for our Active Season (March 1 to November 15) – the time in which clubs in British Columbia **may** once again open to post scores for handicap purposes. Some courses will choose to leave their books closed for posting until the conditions at their course improves.

Once your course is ready to permit the posting of scores for rounds played, British Columbia Golf recommends you use the local rule(s) for cleaning the ball and preferred lies as recommended by Golf Canada –

a

Cleaning Ball – Appendix 1, Part B/4b

Through the green (or a more restrictive area, e.g. on the 6th hole) a ball may be lifted, cleaned and replaced (in its original lie) without penalty.*

Note: The position of the ball must be marked before it is lifted under this Local Rule – see Rule 20-1.

Preferred Lies/Winter Rules Appendix I, Part B/4c

A ball lying on a closely-mown area through the green (or specify a more restricted area, e.g., at the 6th hole) may be lifted without penalty and cleaned. Before lifting the ball, the player must mark its position. Having lifted the ball, he must place it on a spot within (specify area, e.g., six inches, one club-length, etc.) of and not nearer the hole than where it originally lay, that is not in a hazard and not on a putting green.

A player may place his ball only once, and it is in play when it has been placed (Rule 20-4). If the ball fails to come to rest on the spot on which it was placed, Rule 20-3d applies. If the ball when placed comes to rest on the spot on which it was placed and it subsequently moves, there is no penalty and the ball must be played as it lies, unless the provisions of any other Rule apply.

If a player fails to mark the position of the ball before lifting it or moves it in any other manner, such as rolling it with a club, the player incurs a penalty of one stroke.

Note: “Closely-mown area” means any area on the course, including paths cut to fairway height or less.

Through the green is the whole area of the course except:

- (a) The teeing ground and putting green of the hole played and*
- (b) All hazards on the course*

However, during the time when your club may not be open for the posting of scores, British Columbia Golf supports modifying the local rule **for preferred lies** to be ***through the green***, not just the closely mown area. This would also be a good rule of thumb for determining if your course should open your books. If you need to improve through the green, then keep the books closed. Once you are able to restrict to the closely mown, then, you should be in a position to permit the posting of scores.

Please do not hesitate to contact our office should you require help with interpretation or wording of appropriate local rules.