

# **TOWNSVILLE GOLF CLUB INCORPORATED**



## **LOCAL RULES**

**Implemented April 2026**

1. **OUT OF BOUNDS (DEFINITIONS OF GOLF)** Those areas beyond the boundary fences of the course and all other areas as defined by O.O.B. stakes this includes temporary fencing at designated construction zones. **Note:** O.O.B fence variation on hole 4 as staked.

Model Local Rule E-5 – Hole 8 tee shot is effective as of 18/04/2026.

"When a player's ball has not been found or is known or virtually certain to be out of bounds, the player must proceed as follows rather than proceeding under stroke and distance.

For two penalty strokes, the player must take relief by dropping the original ball or another ball in this relief 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 part of the general area cut to fairway height or less. If a ball is estimated to be lost on the course or last crossed the edge of the course boundary short of the fairway, the fairway reference point may be a grass path or a teeing ground for the hole being played 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 (and within two club-lengths to the outside of that line), and
- A line from the hole through the fairway reference point (and within two club-lengths to the fairway side 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.

Once the player puts a ball in play under this Local Rule:

- The original ball is no longer in play and must not be played.
- This is true even if the ball is found on the course before the end of the three-minute search time (see Rule 6.3b).

But the player may not use this option to take relief for the original ball when:

- That ball is known or virtually certain to have come to rest in a penalty area.

A player must take relief for a ball that has not been found or is known or virtually certain to be out of bounds. A provisional ball cannot be played from the tee and a Penalty for Playing Ball from a Wrong Place in Breach of Local Rule: General Penalty Under: Rule 14.7a, will be applied"

This relief applies for tee shots both left or right out of bounds or for a ball not found.

2. **IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTION (Rule 16-1)** The following are classed as Immovable Obstructions:

- a) All distance markers
- b) All reticulation control boxes throughout course

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- c) All roads and paths whether sealed or unsealed
- d) All outbuildings within the bounds of the course

Relief can be provided under Rule 16-1a from abnormal course condition (roads and paths).

3. **MOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS** Stones or loose impediments in bunkers are deemed to be movable obstructions (Rule 12.2a). Hazard and posts and ropes defining No Go areas for buggies deemed to be movable obstructions must be replaced.

4. **ABNORMAL GROUND CONDITIONS (Rule 16)** Line of sight relief area may be taken from all bare areas on the green's surface, washouts in bunkers, ground damaged by magpie geese or animal diggings, bare patches on closely mown fairways, green keeping aeration holes / coring holes on greens and tyre tracks made by course vehicles.

5. **GROUND UNDER REPAIR (G.U.R.)** These areas are defined by G.U.R markings. (white stakes or white lines). Green Nursery(ies) are considered GUR with a compulsory drop.

6. **DROPPING ZONES** Drop zone on holes 10 & 18 are able to be used if the ball does not cross land after the first point of entry of the penalty area. Drop zone on hole 10 is between the cart path and the RHS of the dam. The Drop zone for hole 18 is on the RHS of the cart path on the green side of the dam bridge. Where there is a dropping zone for a penalty area, a ball may be played under Rule 17-1a under penalty of one stroke.

7. **ROADS AND PATHWAYS** There are formed roadways on the course. If the player and the marker agree that a ball is on what is a roadway (evidence of many vehicle tracks etc.) then the player is entitled to a free drop no nearer the hole.

8. **BUNKERS – NO PLAY ZONES (Abnormal course conditions)** All bunkers are defined as No Play Zones and are to be treated as an abnormal course conditions.

- Play from the bunker is prohibited.
- Relief **must** be taken.
- When a player's ball lies in the bunker, or the bunker interferes with the player's stance or intended swing, the player must take relief.

Relief Procedure:

- The player must take free relief by dropping a ball in the designated Drop Zone defined by a green stake with blue top and within One Club Length not nearer to the hole.