

Winter Rules

Rules have a purpose:

These rules are in place to protect the course from damage during wet conditions and to allow for more fair play, as winter conditions often lead to muddy lies and divots.

Every golf club will have different set of Winter Rules, and they will be clearly indicated by the club in the clubhouse and on our Website.

Everyone need to respect the rules to ensure the course remains playable for other golfers.

Course etiquette

Maintain proper golf etiquette, repairing ball marks, replacing divots, and raking bunkers. Be mindful of your pace of play, especially if the course is less crowded during winter months.

Safety

Be cautious of frost, ice, or slippery conditions on the course. [Spiked golf shoes](#) can help stabilise your swing,

Trolley rules

To keep consistency we are now making trolley's compulsory to stay at the edge of the rough (Adjacent to the paths) or on the cart paths. But if for example you are on the right side of a hole and your ball ends up on the left then please take the shortest route, straight across the fairway. Do not walk up the fairways with the trolleys or take them on the approaches.

Remember, our fairways are narrow so if your ball is on the fairway you will only ever have to walk 15–20 yards meaning there is no reason to walk up the fairway.

The rough will recover quicker than any other area but the shortly mown areas will take a lot longer and we want the course to be as good as possible for the 2026 season with minimal course closures throughout winter. A lot of courses have trolley bans and we don't want to go this way but will have to if golfers are not sticking to these new winter rules.

White lines have been painted on the course and will be continued to be painted to keep them visible. These lines which are lines short of each green to reiterate not to take trolleys past this point. We have done this instead of putting ropes up over the course so please adhere to these rules;

1. Don't take trolley's past the white lines
2. If you see someone take a trolley past then politely tell them not to

Winter mats

We have introduced the option to use mats and our President has kindly made a lot of these for members and guests to use free of charge. We don't want to enforce this rule as we want every member to play the golf they wish to play. However in competitions, England Golf have a rule where if you hold a qualifying competition then everyone has to use a mat or nobody can so everyone is playing the same course.

Because of this rule, we have made the Wines & Spirits and Fur & Feather a non qualifying comp so everyone who wants to play has the option to use the mat or not.

We are bounded by these rules by England Golf.

If your ball lands in a deer print in the bunkers

Model Rule F13

Local rule introduced on Friday 07th November 2025 until further notice

“Damage that is caused by deer hoofs should be classed as ground under repair from which free relief is allowed under [Rule 16.1](#).

If deer prints are in a bunker, you can take **free relief**, but you **must stay in the bunker** unless you take a **one-stroke penalty** to drop outside, keeping the bunker between you and the flag.

But on the putting green, Rule 16.1 does not apply and such damage may be repaired under [Rule 13.1](#).

Penalty for Playing Ball from a Wrong Place in Breach of Local Rule: General Penalty Under [Rule 14.7a](#).

Cleaning Your Ball

Model Local Rule E-2 (cleaning ball) implemented from 13th November 2025

When a player’s ball lies in the general area, the ball may be lifted, cleaned and replaced without penalty.

The player must mark the spot of the ball before lifting it (see Rule 14.1) and the ball must be replaced on its original spot.

When it is not know or virtually certain of where the fairway edge starts then apply this rule (model local rule E2)

Penalty for playing ball from a wrong place in breach of local rule: General penalty under rule 14.7a is.

Loss of hole in match play or two strokes in Stroke play.

DEFINITION OF GENERAL AREA

The area of the course that covers all of the course **except** for the other four defined areas:

- (1) the teeing area the player must play from in starting the hole they are playing,
- (2) all penalty areas,
- (3) all bunkers
- (4) the putting green of the hole the player is playing.

Rule 14

Procedures for Ball: Marking, Lifting and Cleaning; Replacing on Spot; Marking, Lifting and Cleaning Ball

This Rule applies to the deliberate “lifting” of a player’s ball at rest.

This may be done in any way, which includes picking up the ball by hand, rotating it or otherwise deliberately causing it to move from its spot.

Before lifting a ball under Model Rule E-2 requiring the ball to be replaced on its original spot, the player must mark the spot which means to:

- Place a ball-marker right behind or right next to the ball.

After replacing the ball, the player must remove the ball-marker before making a stroke. If the player lifts the ball without marking its spot, marks its spot in a wrong way or makes a stroke with a ball-marker left in place, the player gets **one penalty stroke**.

Rule 14.1b

Who May Lift Ball

The player’s ball may be lifted under the Rules only by: The player.