

WINTER RULES

E-3 Preferred Lies

E-3 Preferred Lies (Winter Rules)

Purpose: When occasional local abnormal conditions might interfere with fair play, the affected parts of the course can be defined as ground under repair. But adverse conditions such as heavy snows, spring thaws, prolonged rains or extreme heat can sometimes damage the course or prevent use of heavy mowing equipment.

When such conditions are widespread on the course, the Committee can choose to adopt a Local Rule for “preferred lies” (also known as “winter rules”) to allow fair play or help protect the fairway.

The use of this Local Rule **outside the fairway in the general area is not recommended** as it may result in a player receiving free relief from areas where a ball might otherwise be unplayable (such as in areas of bushes or trees).

Model Local Rule E-3

“When a player’s ball lies in a part of the general area cut to fairway height or less the player may take free relief once by placing the original ball or another ball in and playing it from this relief area:

Reference Point:

- Spot of the original ball.
- Size of Relief Area Measured from Reference Point: [Specify size of relief area, such as one club-length, one scorecard length or **6 inches**] from the reference point, but with these limits:
- Must not be nearer the hole than the reference point, and
- Must be in the general area cut to fairway height or less.

NOTE: MUST BE IN FAIRWAY - CANNOT BE OFF THE FAIRWAY

In proceeding under this Local Rule, the player must choose a spot to place the ball and use the procedures for replacing a ball under Rules 14.2b(2) and 14.2e.

Penalty for Playing Ball from a Wrong Place in Breach of Local Rule: General Penalty Under Rule 14.7a.”