

TTSGA PLAYING GUIDELINES FOR 2022

General. Enforce these rules within your playing group to protect the integrity of the game within the field. If your group cannot agree on a rule interpretation, play two balls from the location in question until holed, and bring the question to a member of the Rules Committee. Anyone practicing on the course on day of play is subject to disqualification. This includes chipping to or putting on any of the course greens. Maximum search time for a ball is 3 minutes!

1. **One ball rule** is in effect, except on the green should you want to putt with a different ball. You must be able to identify your golf ball with your mark. A ball you cannot identify is potentially a lost ball(if two players hit the same ball into the same area, and they cannot be identified, they are both lost). Identify your ball before playing each shot.
2. **Ball** can be bumped with the clubhead within a grip length in **your own fairway**.
3. **Maximum score** on any hole is double par. All putts must be holed out, **unless**, your next putt gives you a double par, then pick up and move on.
4. All penalties are one (1) stroke except as noted in rule #7 below.
5. **Marked ground under repair**, or an abnormal ground condition(requires concurrence of the group), drop 1 club length away, no closer to the hole, and hit with no penalty. A “bad lie” or a poorly maintained area does not mean you are in an abnormal ground condition. This will be a relatively rare occurrence. If your ball is in your own fairway, but rests on rocks or a bare spot, you may move your ball without penalty to the **nearest area of grass(not necessarily the nicest area or best position)**, no closer to the hole.

If you are not in your own fairway, the ball must be played down as it lies.

If rocks, gravel or other conditions prohibit a shot or threaten damage to a club, you have the option of taking an unplayable lie with a 1-stroke penalty.

6. **Penalty areas**, hit ball as it lies without improving stance or lie, with no penalty, **OR**, drop out 2 club lengths from where the ball entered and hit from there, or anywhere along the line from the flagstick thru where the ball entered the penalty area, with 1-stroke penalty.
7. **Out of bounds** drop a ball 2 club lengths in your fairway equidistant from the point where the OB or lost ball(other options for playing lost ball in Rule 8) occurred and hit from there, **2- stroke penalty**. If you choose to hit a provisional ball, you cannot elect this option. You must make the decision from the tee or where you hit the ball.
8. **Lost Ball**
 - 1) **If your ball is lost in a marked penalty area**, and not found within 3 minutes, use your best estimate of where it entered the penalty area, and proceed under Rule 6.
 - 2) **If your ball is lost in rough or grassy areas that have no penalty area markings** and cannot be found in 3 minutes, determine in your best estimation the point where the ball crossed over or entered into that area, drop a ball within 2 club lengths of that point, no closer to the hole and hit, with a 1 stroke penalty.
 - 3) **If lost in a non-mowed area**, use your best judgment to identify the area where the ball was lost, drop a ball 2 club lengths from that point into the next lower cut of grass, no closer

to the hole and hit from that spot with a penalty of 1 stroke.

9. **Hitting From Wrong Tee or Wrong Ball.** There is a 1-stroke penalty for hitting from the wrong tee (group is disoriented), if you correct before leaving the teeing ground. Realization later is a 2 stroke penalty. Hitting the wrong ball (you did not identify) is a 1 stroke penalty if corrected before leaving the green. Realization later is a 2 stroke penalty on all who hit the wrong ball.
10. **Ball in a bunker. Whether a bunker is maintained (has rakes) or is not**, you may drop out of and behind (not beside) the bunker on the line from the pin thru the original position of the ball for a penalty of one stroke. This includes an unplayable lie.

If the ball is in a depression in the bunker (footprint, plugged lie, animal track, etc.) Or packed from rain and not raked or prepared, you may smooth the area (rake or foot) and replace the ball.

If the ball is in an area of casual water or mud within the bunker, you should find the nearest point of relief **within** the bunker and play from that point without penalty. Only if a bunker is **completely** full of water may the player drop out of the bunker without penalty on a straight line from the pin thru the original position of the ball. If you are taking outside relief, you should announce this to your playing partners for their concurrence.

If there has been rainfall immediately before the day of play, an announcement will be made as to whether bunkers are in play that day or not. If they are in play, the above paragraph applies. The player is not entitled to relief from a bunker that is merely wet or has muddy areas. As noted above you may find relief from a muddy area within the bunker without penalty. You are not entitled to relief from wet sand, but may rake or smooth the area in which the ball lies, as noted in the second paragraph. If the bunkers are not in play, the player will drop the ball out as if the bunker is completely full of water without penalty. The drop will be along the line from the flagstick thru the original position of the ball.

11. **Ball Hit Into Body of Water (Excludes Tee Shots on Par 4 & Par 5 holes):** Drop on other side of the water on a line from flag to where the ball entered the water unless there is a designated or marked "drop zone". Either drop incurs a 1-stroke penalty.
12. **Ball hit and found in a non-mowed weed area;** Ball can be played from that spot without penalty, **OR**, dropped 2 club lengths outside the nearest border of the non-mowed area with a 1-stroke penalty.
13. **Moveable Obstructions:** Can be moved without penalty. **Immovable Obstructions** (anything artificial or temporary, including sprinkler heads), you get free relief, that includes ball, stance and swing. **No Relief** is available from natural growing things such as trees, shrubs, vines, bushes, etc. Additional free relief is available within 2 club lengths of a sprinkler head in a closely mowed (fairway length) area where it is on the line of play. Relief is, in all of these situations, a free drop within one club length, no closer to the hole, in the same length of grass.