

**Haddington Golf Club
Local Rules**



Haddington Golf Club Local Rules

Document Change Log

Date	Author	Description	Approved By
5 th February 2025	Neil Bain	Initial version	HGC Management Board
June 2025	Neil Bain	Condense to allow posting on noticeboards	HGC Management Board
November 2025	Neil Bain	Amend Winter Rules wording	HGC Management Board

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Local Rules

1. Out of Bounds

- Over any boundary fence, wall or line of white posts

2. Overhead power line or pole

If it is known or virtually certain that a player's ball strikes either a power line or pole that *stroke* is cancelled, and the player **must** play a ball as near as possible at the spot from which the original ball was played in accordance with [Rule 14.6](#).

3. Power line poles - immovable *obstructions*

On the 14th fairway and between the 9th & 10th holes are *immovable obstructions*. If the pole affects the player's swing or *stance* relief may be taken in accordance with [Rule 16.1](#).

4. Road, paths and yardage markers

The road running through the course (including the public path between the 9th and 10th holes), all man-made paths, tyre marks and blue, yellow or red painted yardage markers on the fairway are immovable *obstructions*. Relief may be taken in accordance with [Rule 16.1](#).

5. GUR area at the 16th hole

A ball coming to rest within the Ground Under Repair area at the 16th hole **must** be lifted and dropped, without penalty, in the drop zone (e.g. artificial grass mat) which is outlined in white paint.

6. Sprinkler Heads

- If a ball lies **off** the *putting green* but not in a *hazard* and an immovable *obstruction* (e.g. fixed sprinkler head) on or within two club-lengths of the *putting green* and within two club-lengths of the ball intervenes on the *line of play* between the ball and the *hole*, the player may take relief, without penalty, as follows:
 - The ball must be lifted and dropped at the nearest point to where the ball lay that
 - a) is not nearer the *hole*,
 - b) avoids such intervention and
 - c) is not in a *hazard* or on a *putting green*

The ball may be cleaned when lifted.

- If a ball lies **on** the *putting green* and an immovable obstruction within two club-lengths of the *putting green* intervenes on the *line of putt*:

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- The ball must be lifted and placed at the nearest point to where the ball lay that
 - a) is not nearer the hole,
 - b) avoids such intervention and
 - c) is not in a hazard.

The ball may be cleaned when lifted.

7. Aeration hole on the green

If a player's ball lies in or touches an aeration hole:

- a) Ball in General Area. The player may take relief under [Rule 16.1b](#). If the ball comes to rest in another aeration hole the player may take relief again under this Local Rule.
- b) Ball on Putting Green. The player may take relief under [Rule 16.1d](#).

But interference does not exist if the aeration hole only interferes with the player's stance or area of intended swing or, on the putting green, on the player's line of play.

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

8. Dangerous Animal Condition

If a ball comes to rest in a situation dangerous to the player (e.g. near to a swan) a player may take relief in accordance with [Rule 16.2b](#).

9. Damage made by moles

Areas of damage in the general area, caused by moles are treated as ground under repair from which relief is allowed under [Rule 16.1b](#).

However, relief is only permitted where the conditions meet the definition of [Animal Hole](#). Relief is not permitted when mole hill has been repaired/cleared, and the surrounding area has been flattened as much as possible.

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

Note: Additional Local Rules and Temporary Local Rules may be communicated to members from time to time and/or displayed on the Club Notice Boards.

Winter Local Rules

The introduction and removal of Winter Local Rules will be communicated to all members by the General Manager by email, club newsletter and/or club notice boards. These will be in addition to the Summer Local Rules above.

10. Preferred Lies

When any part of a player's ball touches part of the [general area](#) cut to fairway height or less, the player may take free relief **once** by

- marking the location of the ball
- **placing** the original ball, or another ball, in and playing it from within one scorecard length or 6 inches **but** no nearer the hole than the original location of the ball and in the [general area](#).

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](#). **But**, for the purposes of applying [Rule 14.2e](#), the player has only chosen the spot on which to **place the ball once** the ball has been set down, and the player has let the ball go with the intent for that ball to be in play.

After a ball has been placed and is in play under this Local Rule, if the player then proceeds under another Rule that provides relief, this Local Rule may be used again.

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

11. Cleaning Ball

When a player's ball lies in the [general area](#) cut to semi-rough height, 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 (see [Rule 14.2](#)).

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

12. Ball lost under leaves

During play, any ground with temporary accumulations of leaves in the *general area* or in a *bunker* is treated as ground under repair from which free relief is allowed under [Rule 16.1](#).

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This local rule is NOT applicable for accumulation of leaves within a *penalty area*.

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

13. Teeing Ground

One set of RED TEES is all that will exist on the golf course. All handicaps should be calculated from the RED TEE chart.

14. Player Mats

Artificial Grass Mats MAY be used in Winter Stableford competitions but are NOT compulsory. Mats can only be used on the fairway or areas mown to fairway height.

The decision to continue to allow golfers to play from the grass all year round gives HGC a significant boost to visitor revenue throughout the winter months. Our course grass growth rate is so high throughout the season, that this far outweighs any argument to 'protect' the fairways.

15. Par 3 Mats

Mats on par 3 tees (4th, 10th and 16th) **MUST** be used during the winter.