



WNHGA RULES SEMINAR 2024

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NCGA Tournament Official





USGA Rules Publications

The Rules of Golf – The full text of the Rules of Golf, Definitions and an index.

The Official Guide to the Rules of Golf – Contains the full Rules, Interpretations and Committee Procedures.

Go to USGA.org to review the videos and other useful materials.





Rule 14.3 Nearest Point of Complete Relief

The estimated point where the ball would lie that is:

- Nearest to the ball's original spot, but not nearer the hole than the spot,
- In the required area of the course,
- Where there is no interference (under the rule being used) from the condition from which relief is being taken for the stroke the player would have made from the original spot if the condition were not there.

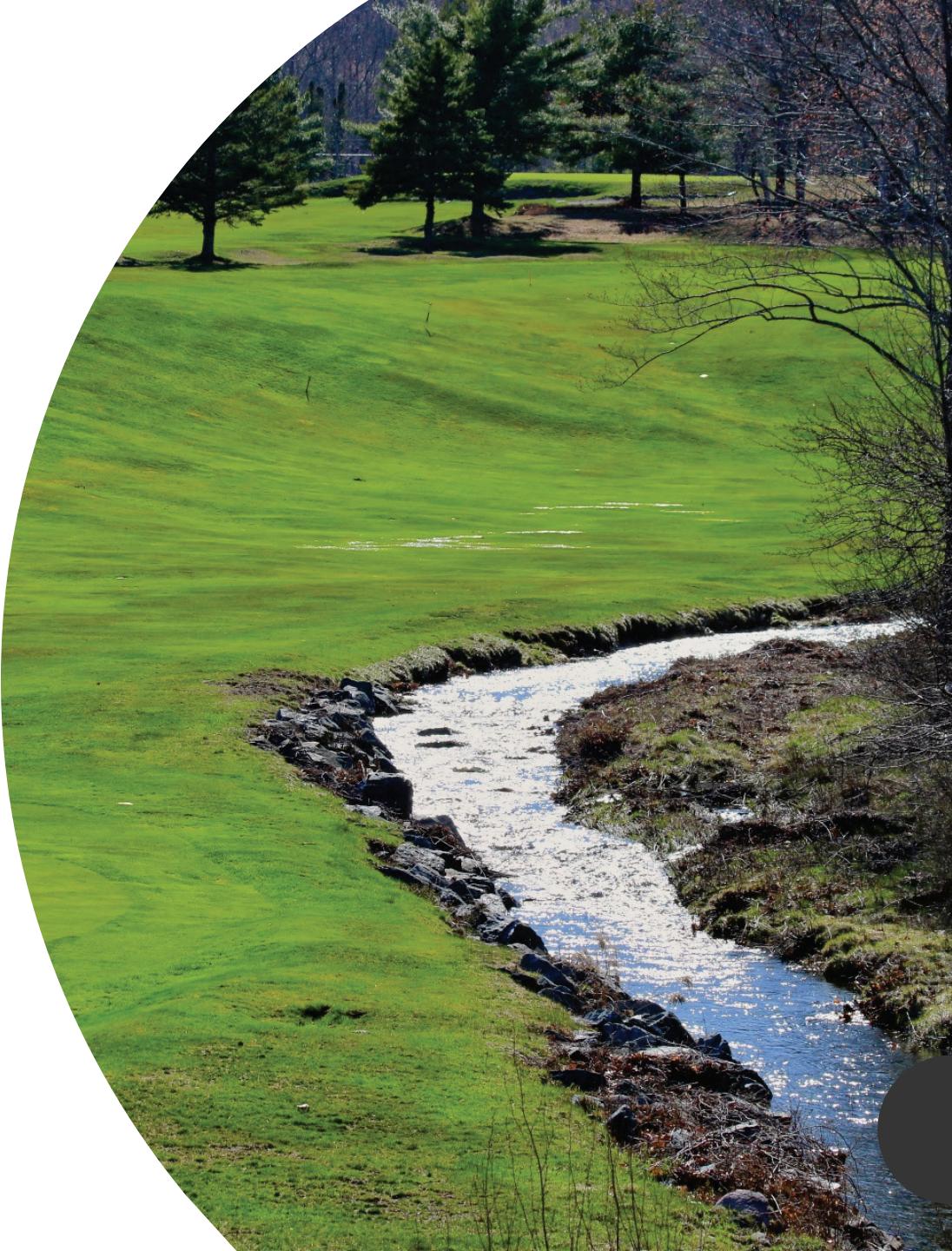
Rule 14.3

Nearest Point of Complete Relief

Relief is given for lie of ball, area of intended swing and area of intended stance.

*Note that relief for the line of play is not included except on the putting green.

The Nearest Point of Relief applies only in these relief situations:



Rule 14.3

Nearest Point of Complete Relief

- Abnormal course conditions: Includes Animal Holes, GUR, Immovable Obstructions, Temporary Water (Rule 16.1)
- Dangerous Animal Conditions (Rule 16.2)
- Wrong Greens (Rule 13.1f)
- No Play Zones (Rules 16.1f and 17.1e)
- Local Rules like Flower Beds (Rule 16.1)





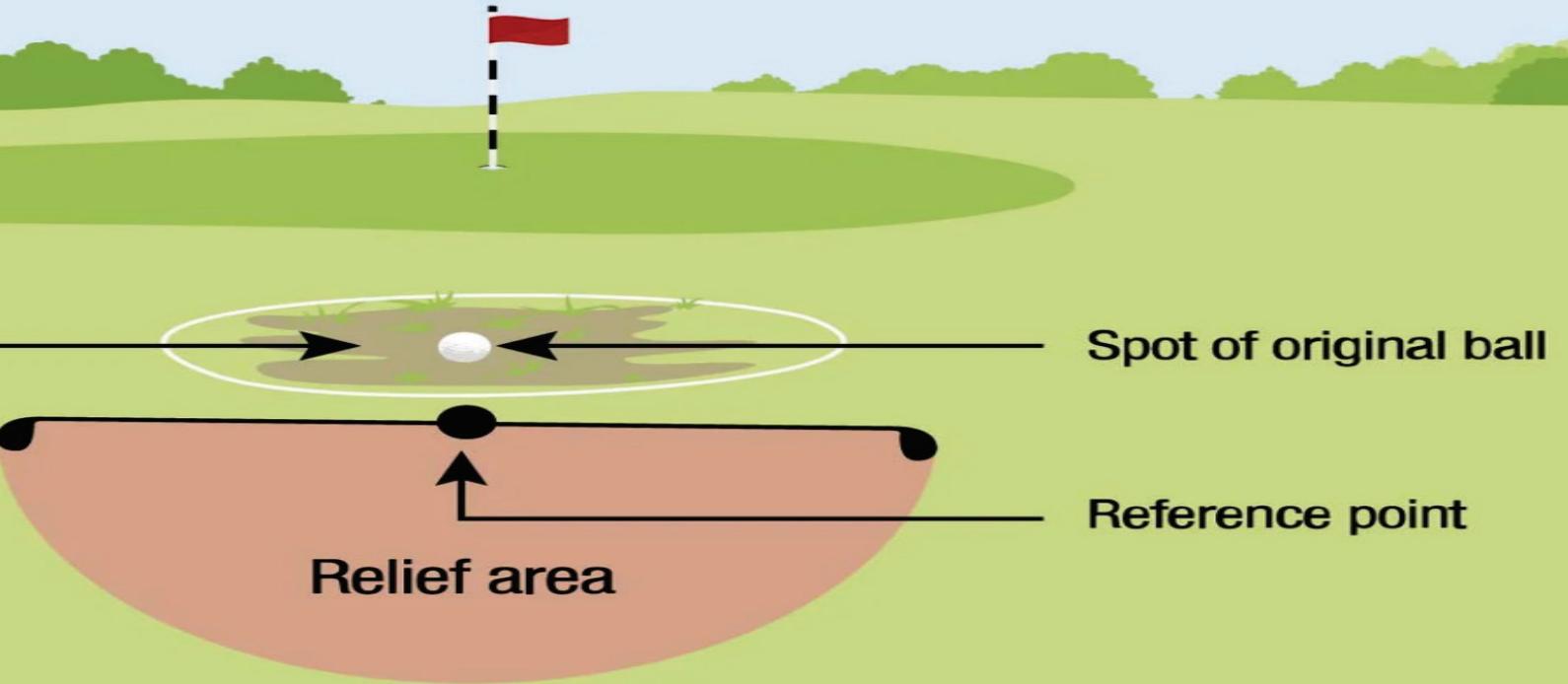
NEAREST POINT OF
COMPLETE SWEEP

Rule 16: Relief from Abnormal Course Conditions (free relief)

- Immovable Obstructions
 - Dangerous Animal Conditions
 - Embedded Ball (Relief is immediately behind not NPR, one club length)
 - Ground Under Repair
 - Cart Path (must consider both sides and take nearest point of relief)
-

ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITION IN GENERAL AREA

**Abnormal
course
condition**



Free relief is allowed when the ball is in the general area and there is interference by an abnormal course condition. The nearest point of complete relief should be identified and a ball must be dropped in and come to rest in the relief area.

Reference Point	Size of Relief Area	Limits on Relief Area
The nearest point of complete relief	One club-length from the reference point	 The relief area: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Must not be nearer the hole than the reference point, andMust be in the general area

Player Notes:

Rule 16.3: Embedded golf Ball

- A player's ball is embedded only if:
- A ball embedded in its own pitch-mark in the ground, in the general area.
 - Part of the ball is below the level of the ground.

a. When Relief Is Allowed

Relief is allowed only when your ball is *embedded* in the *general area*. **But** if your ball is *embedded* on the *putting green*, you may *mark* the spot of your ball, lift and clean it, repair the damage, and *replace* your ball on its original spot.

DIAGRAM 16.3a: WHEN A BALL IS EMBEDDED



Ball is embedded

Part of the ball (embedded in its own pitch-mark) is below the level of the ground.

← Level of Ground



Ball is embedded

Despite the fact that the ball is not touching the soil, part of the ball (embedded in its own pitch-mark) is below the level of the ground.



Ball is NOT embedded

Even though the ball is sitting down in the grass, relief is not available because no part of the ball is below the level of the ground.

Exceptions – When Relief Not Allowed for Ball Embedded in General Area:

- When your ball is *embedded* in sand in a part of the *general area* that is not cut to fairway height or less, or
- When interference by anything other than your ball being *embedded* makes your *stroke* clearly unreasonable (for example, when you are unable to make a *stroke* because of where your ball lies in a bush).

Your ball is *embedded* only if it is in its own pitch-mark made as a result of your previous *stroke* and part of your ball is below the level of the ground.



Rule 17: Penalty Areas

A ball is in a penalty area when *any* part of the ball lies on or touches the ground inside the edge of the penalty area.

The player may play the ball as it lies in the penalty area or take penalty relief (one stroke penalty).

Rule 17: Yellow Penalty Areas

Relief for **Yellow** Penalty Area:

- Stroke and Distance (return to place from which you last played).
 - Back on the line from where the ball last crossed the margin of the penalty area and the flagstick going back as far as you want to go.
-

Rule 17: *Red Penalty Areas*

Relief for **Red** Penalty Area:

- Stroke and Distance (return to place from which you last played).
 - Back on the line from where the ball last crossed the margin of the penalty area and the flagstick going back as far as you want to go.
 - Lateral relief (Two club lengths from where the ball last crossed the margin of the penalty area). Relief on the opposite side of the penalty area is available only as a Local Rule.
-



DROPPING ZONE

Rule 19: *Unplayable Ball*

- Unplayable ball (*one stroke penalty*).
Note: You **must find** your ball to take an unplayable relief. Otherwise, it is a lost ball.
 - This rule covers the player's relief options for an unplayable ball **outside of a Penalty Area**.
 - This allows the player to choose which option to use - *with a one penalty stroke*.
 - The player is the only person who may decide to treat her ball as unplayable by taking penalty relief.
-

Rule 19: Unplayable Ball

Unplayable Ball Options in the General Area:

- Stroke and Distance (return to the place from which you last played).
 - Back on the line between where the ball lies and the flagstick going back as far as you want.
 - Lateral relief (Two club-lengths from where the ball lies).
-

Rule 19: *Unplayable Ball*

All of the above applies to an unplayable ball in a bunker with the limitation that if you choose the back on the line relief, the ball must stay in the bunker. However, for a *two-stroke penalty*, the player may drop a ball on the line between where the ball lay in the bunker and the flagstick and go back as far as she wants outside of the bunker.





UNPLAYABLE BALL

Rule 18: Ball Lost or Out of Bounds (one stroke penalty)

- The OB line is itself out of bounds, and your ball must be completely out of bounds to apply this rule. If any part of the ball is in bounds, the entire ball is in bounds.
 - Your main option for a lost ball or ball hit out of bounds is to take stroke and distance.
 - You have 3 minutes to search for a lost ball and if not found within that time, the ball is considered to be lost.
-

Rule 18.3: Provisional Ball

- If a ball might be lost outside a penalty area or be out of bounds, to save time the player may play another ball provisionally under penalty of stroke and distance.
- The player must announce they are playing a Provisional Ball **prior** to making the stroke.
- The provisional ball becomes the ball in play when the player makes a stroke at it from a place closer to the hole than where the original ball was most likely to be found.

Rule 18: Ball Lost or Out of Bounds Optional Local Rule E5 (two stroke penalty)

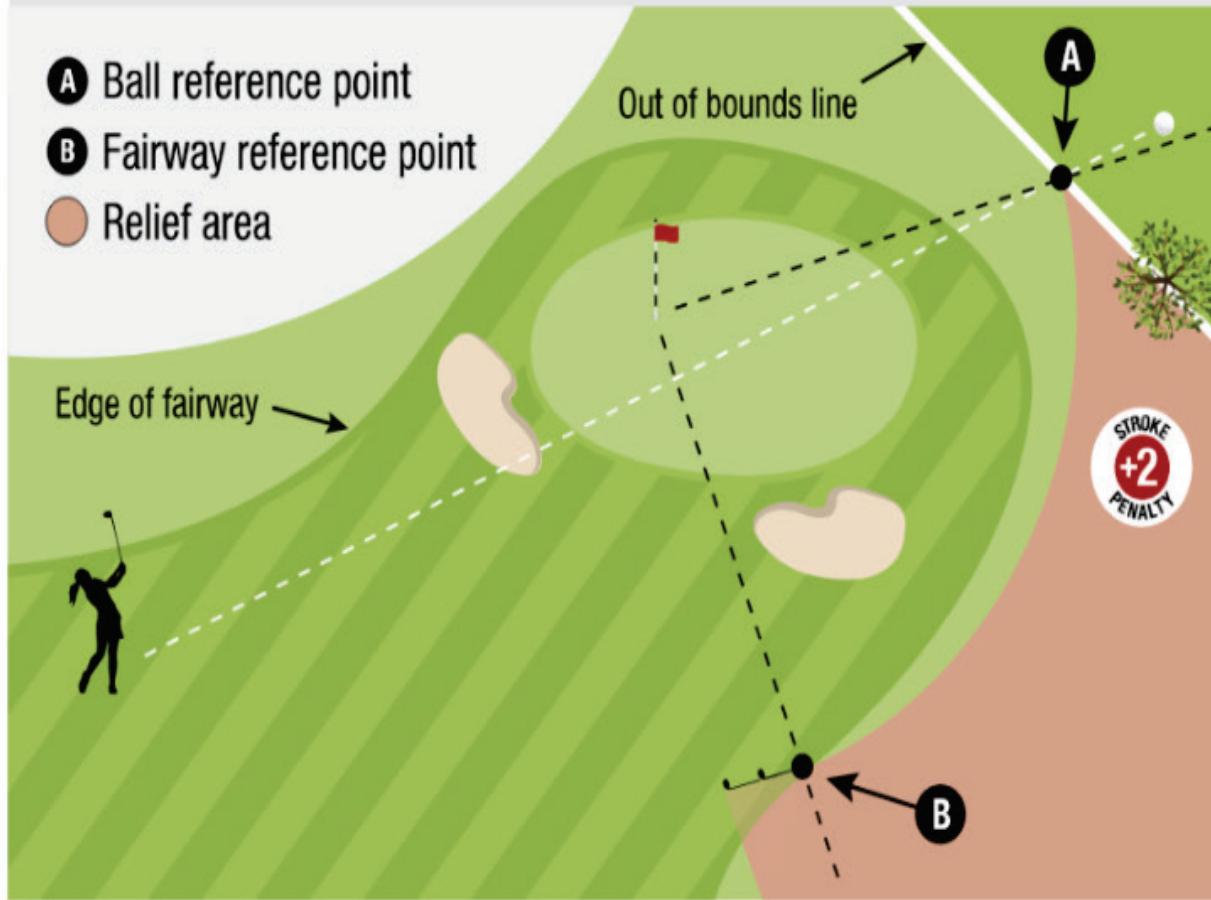
- If your club has adopted the Local Rule allowing an alternative to stroke and distance for ball lost or out of bounds, you will be able to use that for two-strokes and is only available if you have not hit a Provisional Ball.
 - This local rule cannot be used for an unplayable ball, or for a ball that is known or virtually certain to be in a penalty area.
-



SPOT OF PREVIOUS STROKE

MLR E-5 DIAGRAM 3: BALL NOT FOUND OR OUT OF BOUNDS CLOSE TO GREEN

- A** Ball reference point
- B** Fairway reference point
- Relief area**



When a player's ball has not been found or is known or virtually certain to be out of bounds, the player may take stroke-and-distance relief, or when Model Local Rule E-5 is introduced, the player has the additional option to drop a ball in and play from the relief area described below for two penalty strokes:

Reference Points	Size of Relief Area	Limits on Relief Area
<p>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 (point A)</p> <p>B. Fairway Reference Point: The point of fairway of the hole being played (point B) that is nearest to the ball reference point, but is not nearer the hole than the ball reference point</p>	<p>Anywhere between:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A line from the hole through the ball reference point (point A) (and within two club-lengths to the outside of that line), and • A line from the hole through the fairway reference point (point B) (and within two club-lengths to the fairway side of that line) 	<p>The relief area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must not be nearer the hole than the ball reference point, and • Must be in the general area

Player Notes:

As the relief area is likely to be very large, the ball could roll a considerable distance from the spot where it first strikes the ground and not need to be dropped again.

Extra Credit:

- A good practice is to always mark your ball when you lift your ball in play. This is **required** when lifting ball for interference with another player's line of play or to identify your ball.
 - Ball accidentally moved during a ball search. No penalty, replace the ball on the original location and if unknown, estimate the location.
-

Extra Credit:

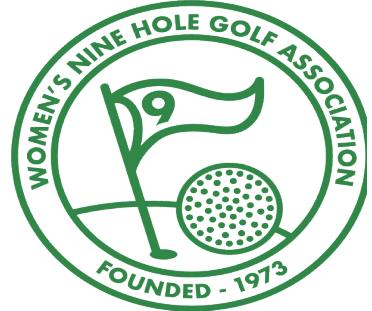
- Ball moved accidentally on the putting green. No penalty, replace ball on original location. If wind or gravity moves the ball on the putting green, what you do depends on whether you had marked, lifted and replaced your ball prior to the movement. If so, replace your ball in the original location. If not, play from the new location.
 - Ball moved accidentally elsewhere (other than the putting green) on the course. One stroke penalty, and the ball must be replaced in the original location.
-



USGA Rules Videos

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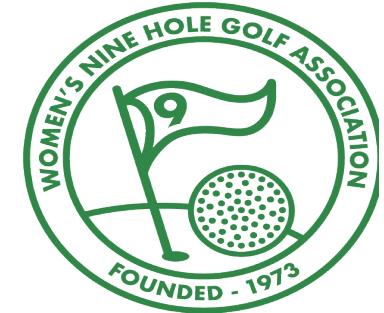
- Putting Green
- Loose impediments
- Playing the course as you find it
- Flagstick
- Moveable Obstructions
- Bunkers



"We've only played three holes and
we've both already shot our ages!"

BREAK

THE SEMINAR WILL
RESUME SHORTLY



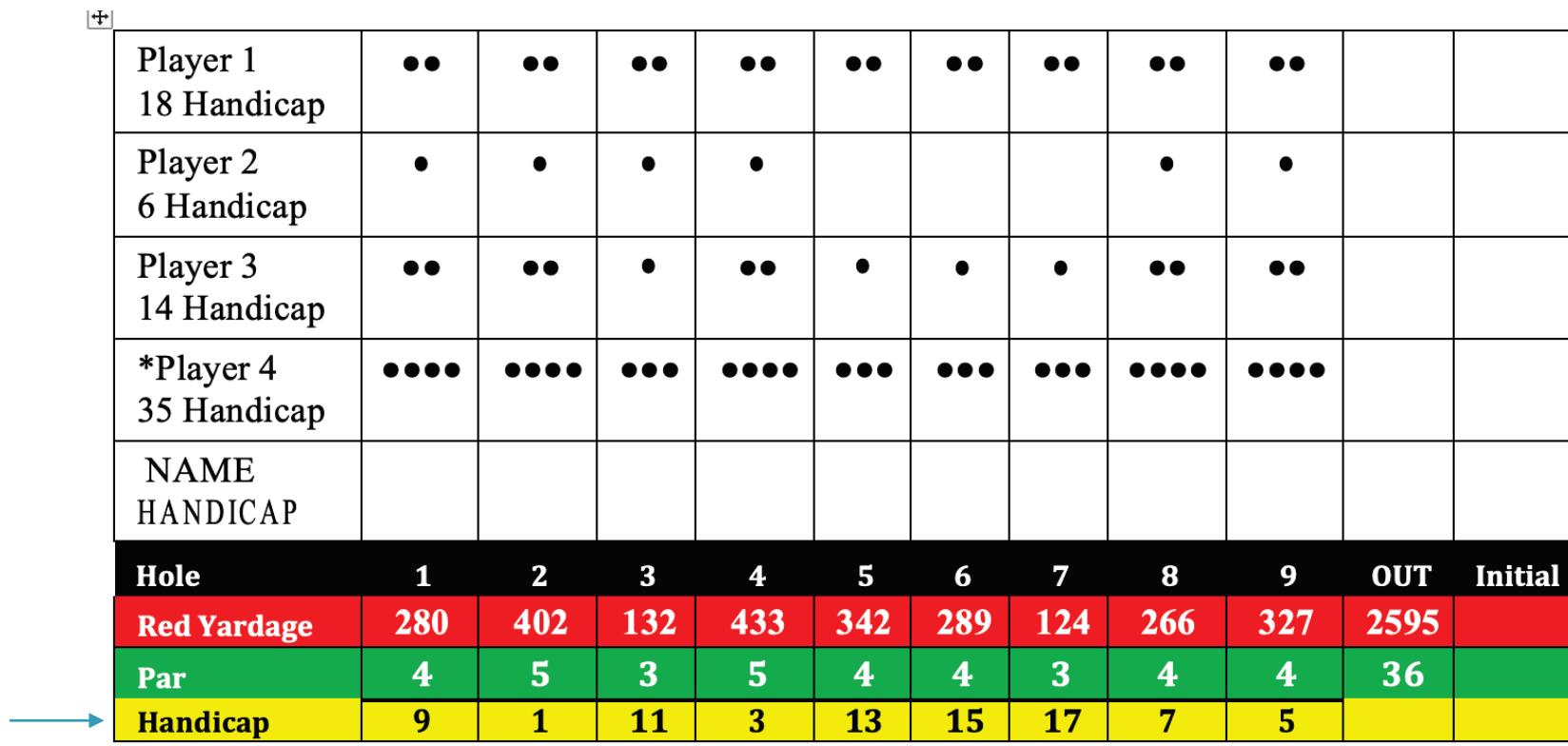
WNHGA MARKERS SEMINAR 2024

Cindy Garcia WNHGA Director
Judi Phillips WNHGA Advisor

USGA Handicap and Popping a Card

Pops are the small dots or checks placed on the scorecard which should add up to the player's handicap allowance (handicap strokes) for a specified game. Once the appropriate handicap has been determined for the course to be played, pops can be distributed as described in the following examples.

In each case, start the process by dividing the nine-hole handicap by nine.



		Handicap Distribution										
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	OUT	Initial
NAME												
HANDICAP												
Hole		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	OUT	Initial
Red Yardage		280	402	132	433	342	289	124	266	327	2595	
Par		4	5	3	5	4	4	3	4	4	36	
Handicap		9	1	11	3	13	15	17	7	5		

A Scratch Golfer

Two women were put together as partners in the club tournament and met on the putting green for the first time.

After introductions, the first golfer asked, "What's your handicap?"

"Oh, I'm a scratch golfer," the other replied.

"Really!" exclaimed the first woman, suitably impressed that she was paired up with her.

"Yes, I write down all my good scores and scratch out the bad ones!"

Team Play Scorecard Blank



WNHGA TEAM PLAY @ Some Club

Tuesday July 17, 2012

Team Play Scorecard with Scores



**"Hi, I'm with the tournament. Do you recall
how many strokes Mr. Donwood took on the
par-4 10th before you ate him?"**





WNHGA Marker Form - Front Nine										
Fairway: /		Sand: <input type="checkbox"/>		Penalty Area: <input type="checkbox"/>						
STARTING HOLE#: 5				MARKER NAME: Sandy Bunker						
Play starts at 8:30				with 18 minutes allowed per hole						
PLAYER #1: <i>Debbie Divot</i>				FLIGHT #: 1						
CLUB: <i>Crows Fly CC</i>				VISUAL ID: Green Shorts						
HOLE #:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
Strokes	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4
	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8
	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2
Penalties										
Putts	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
TOTAL										
FLAG IN HOLE:	10:18	10:36	10:54	11:12	8:48	9:06	9:24	9:42	10:00	
PLAYER #2: <i>Betty Birdie</i>	FLIGHT #: 1									
CLUB: <i>Crows Fly CC</i>	VISUAL ID: Hawaiian Flowered Hat									
HOLE #:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
Strokes	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4
	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8
	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2
Penalties										
Putts	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
TOTAL										
PLAYER #3: <i>Sally Slicer</i>	FLIGHT #: 2									
CLUB: <i>Stonehinge CC</i>	VISUAL ID: Blue & White Stripped Shirt									
HOLE #:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
Strokes	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4
	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8
	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2
Penalties										
Putts	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
TOTAL										
PLAYER #4: <i>Patty Putting</i>	FLIGHT #: 2									
CLUB: <i>Stonehinge CC</i>	VISUAL ID: Long Pony Tail White Visor									
HOLE #:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
Strokes	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4
	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8
	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2
Penalties										
Putts	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
TOTAL										
SIGNATURES REQUIRED FROM ALL PLAYERS PLUS MARKER										
Player 1:				Player 3:				Marker Signature:		
Player 2:				Player 4:						
STARTING HOLE#: 5				MARKER NAME: Sandy Bunker						

WNHGA Marker Form - Front Nine											
Fairway: / Sand: <input type="checkbox"/> Penalty Area: <input type="checkbox"/>											
STARTING HOLE#: 5				MARKER NAME: Sandy Bunker							
Play starts at 8:30				with 18 minutes allowed per hole							
PLAYER #1: <i>Debbie Divot</i>				FLIGHT #: 1							
CLUB: <i>Crows Fly CC</i>				VISUAL ID: Green Shorts							
HOLE #:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total	
Strokes	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	
	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	
	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	
Penalties				I							
Putts	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	
TOTAL	6	4	7	6	6	4	7	6	4		
FLAG IN HOLE:	10:18	10:36	10:54	11:12	8:48	9:06	9:24	9:42	10:00		
PLAYER #2: <i>Betty Birdie</i>	FLIGHT #: 1										
CLUB: <i>Crows Fly CC</i>	VISUAL ID: Hawaiian Flowered Hat										
HOLE #:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total	
Strokes	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	
	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	
	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	
Penalties					II						
Putts	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	
TOTAL	5	3	6	6	8	1	7	4	5		
PLAYER #3: <i>Sally Slicer</i>	FLIGHT #: 2										
CLUB: <i>Stonehinge CC</i>	VISUAL ID: Blue & White Stripped Shirt										
HOLE #:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total	
Strokes	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	
	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	
	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	
Penalties											
Putts	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	
TOTAL											
PLAYER #4: <i>Patty Putting</i>	FLIGHT #: 2										
CLUB: <i>Stonehinge CC</i>	VISUAL ID: Long Pony Tail White Visor										
HOLE #:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total	
Strokes	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	
	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	5 6 7 8	
	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	9 0 1 2	
Penalties											
Putts	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	
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STARTING HOLE#: 5				MARKER NAME: Sandy Bunker							





WNHGA *Resources*

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- WNHGA Captains Manual
- Markers – Section 7
- Team Play – Section 10

THANK YOU FOR COMING

