

# ELTON FURZE GOLF CLUB

## LOCAL RULES

- Local Rule 1 **Abnormal Ground Conditions (Rule 25-1)**  
When a ball comes to rest in, or on, tractor tread marks, drainage channels, surface cracks or when the condition interferes with the player's stance or the area of his intended swing, anywhere on the course, but not teeing ground or putting green or any hazard, a player may mark, lift, clean and drop the ball, within one club length of the nearest point of relief not nearer the hole, without penalty.
- Local Rule 2 **Damaged Bunker Linings (Rule 25-1b(ii))**  
If a ball comes to rest on damaged bunker linings, or when the condition interferes with a player's stance or the area of his intended swing, the player may lift, clean and drop the ball, without penalty, as near as possible to the original spot where the ball came to rest. The ball must be dropped in the bunker, not nearer the hole.  
  
Under penalty of one stroke, the ball may be dropped outside the bunker keeping the point where the ball lay directly between the hole and the spot on which the ball is dropped, with no limit to how far behind the bunker the ball may be dropped.
- Local Rule 3 **Use of Powered Buggies (Rule 33-1 and Appendix 1 Part C-9)**  
The only circumstances in which competitors are allowed to use powered buggies in Club competitions are as follows:  
  
(i) When in possession of an appropriate medical certificate for a current temporary or permanent medical condition. The Competition Secretary's approval must be sought first. The buggy must not be used to carry any equipment of an able-bodied competitor.  
(ii) In any "Invitation Event" involving visitors and guests of Elton Furze members.
- Local Rule 4 **Use of Distance Measuring Devices (Rule 14-3)**  
A player may obtain distance information by using a Distance Measuring Device.  
  
A multi-functional device, such as a smartphone, may be used as a distance measuring device, but it must not be used to gauge or measure other conditions such as wind speed/direction, gradient or temperature or any other factors that may affect play (see Rules of Golf: Appendix IV, paragraph 5).  
  
In regional qualifying competitions held at EFGC players are required to consult the rules of the day to ascertain whether the use of electronic Distance Measuring Devices is acceptable. Failure to comply may result in disqualification.
- Local Rule 5 **Ball that may be in a water hazard (Rule 26-1 & Appendix 1 Part B-1)**  
If there is doubt whether a ball is in a yellow water hazard at the 6<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> holes or lost, a player may play another ball provisionally under Rule 27-2. If the original ball is found outside the water hazard the player must continue to play with it. If the original ball is found in the water hazard, the player may either play the original ball as it lies or continue with the ball played provisionally. If the original ball is not found or identified within 5 minutes, the player must continue with the ball played provisionally.

Local Rule 6 **Aeration Holes (Rule 33-8 & Appendix 1 Part B-4d)**  
Anywhere on the course, but not in a hazard or on the teeing area of the hole being played, a ball that comes to rest in, or on, an aeration hole may be marked and lifted without penalty, cleaned and dropped as near as possible to the spot where it lay but not nearer the hole. On a putting green, a ball that comes to rest in or on an aeration hole may be placed at the nearest spot, not nearer the hole, that avoids the situation.

Local Rule 7 **Ball on putting green moved accidentally (Rules 18-2, 18-3, 20-1)**  
When a player's ball lies on the putting green, there is no penalty if the ball or ball-marker is accidentally moved by the player, his partner, his opponent, or any of their caddies or equipment.

In such a case a moved ball or ball-marker must be replaced.

Note: If a player's ball on the putting green was moved as a result of wind, water or some other natural cause (eg gravity), the ball must be played as it lies from its new location. A ball-marker moved in such circumstances must be replaced.

The following is a *summary* of the local rules that can be found on the back of the course scorecard.

**Out of Bounds**  
Rule 27-1b In addition to areas beyond boundary fences and lines of white stakes the following are out of bounds:

- The woods beyond the ditch on the right hand side of the first hole
- The woods beyond the ditch on the left hand side of the ninth hole

**Hazards**  
Rule 26 Paths and bridges within yellow or red hazard markers are deemed to be integral parts of the course (not obstructions). A ball coming to rest on any such path or bridge is in the hazard and must be played as it lies or dropped under penalty of one stroke.

**Stones in Bunkers**  
Rule 24-1 and Appendix 1 Part A-5b Stones in bunkers are deemed to be movable obstructions and may be moved without penalty.

**Protected Trees**  
Rule 24-2 Trees with green tubular guards (but not trees that are staked by wooden posts or protected with plastic netting) are deemed immovable obstructions. Relief without penalty may be taken within one club length from the nearest point of relief, not nearer the hole.

**Ground Under Repair**  
Rules 25 and 33-2 Relief must be taken (no penalty) for a ball coming to rest in any area marked as ground under repair, on (or in) drainage work or on turf repairs on greens.

**Electricity pylons & cables** – Decisions on the Rules of Golf: 33-8/13 If a ball strikes an electricity pylon or cable that is within the boundary of the course, the stroke is cancelled and the player must replay from a spot as close as possible to where the original ball was played. In this case the ball must be dropped or replaced on the tee and no penalty applies.

Breach of local rules:

Match play – loss of hole

Stroke play – two shot penalty unless the Rules of Golf state otherwise

# Winter Rules

Local Rules applying when Winter Rules are in place

- Winter Rule 1     **Placing and Cleaning (Rule 25-1 and Appendix 1 Part A.3b)**  
A ball lying on a closely mown area of the golf course (normally the fairway) and not in a hazard, may be marked, lifted and cleaned and placed within 6 inches of the mark, not nearer the hole. Once placed, the ball is in play.
- Winter Rule 2     **Lifting an Embedded ball (Rule 25-2 and Appendix 1 Part A.3a)**  
A ball that becomes embedded in its own pitch mark anywhere on the golf course that is not in a hazard may be marked, lifted, cleaned and dropped as near as possible to the spot where it lay, but not nearer the hole.  
  
Note: in this case, if, having been dropped, the ball comes to rest on a closely mown area then Winter Rule 1 applies.
- Winter Rule 3     **Greens (Rule 25-3)**  
When a *winter green* is in use, a ball coming to rest on a *main green* must not be played as it lies. In such a case, the ball must be picked up and dropped at a place off the green, nearest to the edge of the green where it came to rest, not nearer the hole and in such a position that the player's stance is not on the green when he plays his shot.
- Winter Rule 4     **Blue Ropes and Stakes/Poles (Rule 24-2)**  
Blue ropes and stakes must be treated as immovable obstructions and, if they interfere with stance or swing, relief may be taken within one club length of the nearest point of relief, not nearer the hole, without penalty.  
  
If, once relief has been taken, a ball having been played strikes a blue rope or supporting post the ball must be replaced and played again, without penalty.
- Breach of Local Rules     Match play - loss of hole; Stroke play - two stroke penalty, unless the Rules of Golf state otherwise.