RNZAF Auckland Golf Club Inc.
Local Rules

Updated: October 2026

To be read in conjunction with Rules of Golf 2023 and additional Local Rules on the scorecard

1. OUT OF BOUNDS (OOB) (Definition & Rule 18)

Defined by:

- the line that runs between the course-side points of the posts of the **airfield perimeter security fence**.
- the line that runs between the course-side points of **white stakes** (with or without **orange tips**) around:
  the cart shed; the sand storage area; left and right-side of 3rd hole; left side of the 17th hole;
  the Main Runway (Northern) boundary side of the course (2nd, 3rd, 4th, 11th, 12th and 13th holes).
- the left-hand side of the 7th hole is marked by white paint on the side of the cart path and white stakes between the cart path and tee.

Note:
Wire or rope that is fencing the Bomb Dump Area, does not define OOB. The course side points of the **orange-tipped** white posts define OOB).

2. PROHIBITED AREAS

Defined by:

- **orange-tipped** white OOB stakes/posts.
- **orange-tipped** red Penalty Area stakes/posts.
- **orange-tipped** PVC stakes.

Prohibited Areas are also marked on the course layout diagram on back of scorecard and on the Notice Board.

IMPORTANT:
Entering or crossing any **Prohibited Area** will result in **DISQUALIFICATION** from the competition being played.
Members will face disciplinary action. Visitors will be escorted from the course.

The bitumen aircraft taxiway on the right of the 8th hole and left of the 17th hole (defined by **orange-tipped** stakes and rope or **orange-tipped** PVC posts), is **Out of Bounds** and is a **Prohibited Area**.
If there is an aircraft on **any** part of this taxiway, **holes 8, 9, 10, 11, 16 and 17 are all closed**.
Proceed from the 7th green to the 12th hole via the perimeter fence side of the 16th and 15th holes.
Proceed from the 15th green to the 18th tee via the 16th fence line and the 7th hole.
Do not go via the 17th hole!

Prohibited Areas are **No Play Zones**.
Relief process:

- **Ball is inside a No Play Zone Penalty Area**. (**orange-tipped red** stakes)
  If a ball is known or virtually certain to have crossed the margin of and has come to rest in a No Play Zone Penalty Area**, penalty relief must be taken** using an appropriate option under Rule 17.1d.

- **Ball is in the General Area, but stance or swing is limited by any orange-tipped stakes or the wire/rope between them.**
  Relief may be taken either without penalty under Rule 16.1f(2), or under penalty relief using another appropriate Rule. (**Model Local Rule E-9**).

3. ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITIONS (Definition)

Animal Holes, Ground Under Repair (GUR), Immovable Obstructions, or Temporary Water.

Mandatory GUR:

- **Areas marked by blue stakes and a sign stating relief must be taken**, are **No Play Zones**. Relief **must** be taken either without penalty under Rule 16.1f(2), or under penalty relief using another appropriate Rule.
- **Area marked by blue stakes on hole 9 (by the 14th tee) is a No Play Zone.** See Local Rule 10 for relief procedure.

Optional GUR: (Free relief may be taken under Rule 16.1)

- **Areas encircled by white lines or by blue stakes without a sign stating relief must be taken**.
- **Deep wheel ruts** (not shallow cart marks) in the General Area.
- **Bare Ground on a Putting Green**.
  If a player's ball is on the Putting Green and there is interference by bare ground to lie of the ball or line of play, free relief may be taken under Rule 16.1d. Relief is not allowed for interference only with the player's stance.
- **Paspalum Stalks on Own Fairway**.
  If a player's ball lies in a part of the General Area that is closely mown to fairway height or less on the hole being played as designed, and there is interference to the lie of the ball or area of intended swing by a paspalum stalk, **free relief may be taken** using Rule 16.1b. Relief is not allowed for interference only with the player's stance.
  Note: Plucking paspalum stalks interfering with a ball in play is a breach of Rule 8.1a.

Immovable Obstructions:

- Aerials.
- Distance markers
- Penalty Area stakes
- Stakes defining GUR and No Play Zones on the course.
- Shelters and protection screens.
- Formed roads/cart paths.
- Scoria drains.
- The drain adjacent to the 18th tee running down to the red-staked Penalty Area.
- The concrete footing of the perimeter security fence (not the OOB stakes or the perimeter security fence poles/netting, as these are located outside the boundary of the course).
  Clarification: Ball must be in-bounds to take relief from the concrete footing.
- The metal rings surrounding the dropping zones on Hole 9.

Immovable Obstruction Rules reminder:

- Relief is for interference to stance or area of intended swing, NOT line of play.

Ball lies outside of a penalty area:

Free relief under **Rule 16.1 may** be taken from interference by an immovable obstruction, but relief **must** be taken for interference by a No Play Zone; see Local Rule 2.

Ball lies inside a penalty area:

No free relief. Play the ball as it lies or take penalty relief under Rule 17.1d

4. IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS CLOSE TO PUTTING GREENS

(Model Local rule F-5.1)

Relief from interference by an immovable obstruction may be taken under Rule 16.1.
The player has an extra option to take relief when such immovable obstructions are on or close to the putting green and on the line of play:
Ball in General Area: The player may take relief under Rule 16.1b if an immovable obstruction is:

- On the line of play, and is:
  - On or within two club-lengths of the putting green, and
  - Within two club-lengths of the ball.

But complete relief must be taken, which includes both physical and line of play interference
Exception - There is no relief under this Local Rule if the player chooses a line of play that is clearly unreasonable.

5. PROTECTION OF YOUNG TREES (Model Local rule E-10)

Young trees, identified as:

- those two club lengths or less in height, **and/or**
- those with **blue**/**black** paint on supporting stakes

are **No Play Zones**.

If a player's ball lies anywhere on the course other than in a penalty area and it lies in or touches such a tree, or such a tree interferes with the player's area of intended stance or area of intended swing, **the player must take relief under** Rule 16.1f.

If a ball lies in a penalty area, and interference to the player's stance or area of intended swing exists from such a tree, **the player must take penalty relief under** Rule 17.1e.

No relief without penalty for interference by a tree above two club lengths in height, even if supported by **unpainted** stakes. Interference by the stake itself qualifies for relief.

6. PREFERRED LIES (Model Local rule E-3)

When 'Preferred Lies' is in play it will be displayed (including on printed scorecard) as either:

1) 'Preferred Lies on Own Closely Mown Fairway' or
2) 'Preferred Lies in The General Area'

Preferred Lies on Own Closely Mown Fairway

When a player's ball touches part of the General Area **that is cut to fairway height or less on the hole being played as designed**, 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: **15cm** 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.

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.

Preferred Lies in the General Area

As per wording above but applies when a ball is touching any part of the **General Area**.

Rule Clarification:

- **The ball is in play** once the player intends to put the ball in play and in doing so, they place a ball by hand on the chosen spot, release it, and the ball stays on the chosen spot.
- Once this is done**, the ball must not be touched again** unless acting under a different Rule. Touching the ball again in this instance is a breach of Rule 9.4b.
- If the ball when released does not stay on the chosen spot, it must be placed again on the **same** spot. If it still does not stay on this spot, it must be placed on **the nearest spot** no closer to the hole where it will stay at rest.

7. ALTERNATIVE TO STROKE AND DISTANCE FOR LOST BALL OR BALL OUT OF BOUNDS (Model Local Rule E-5)

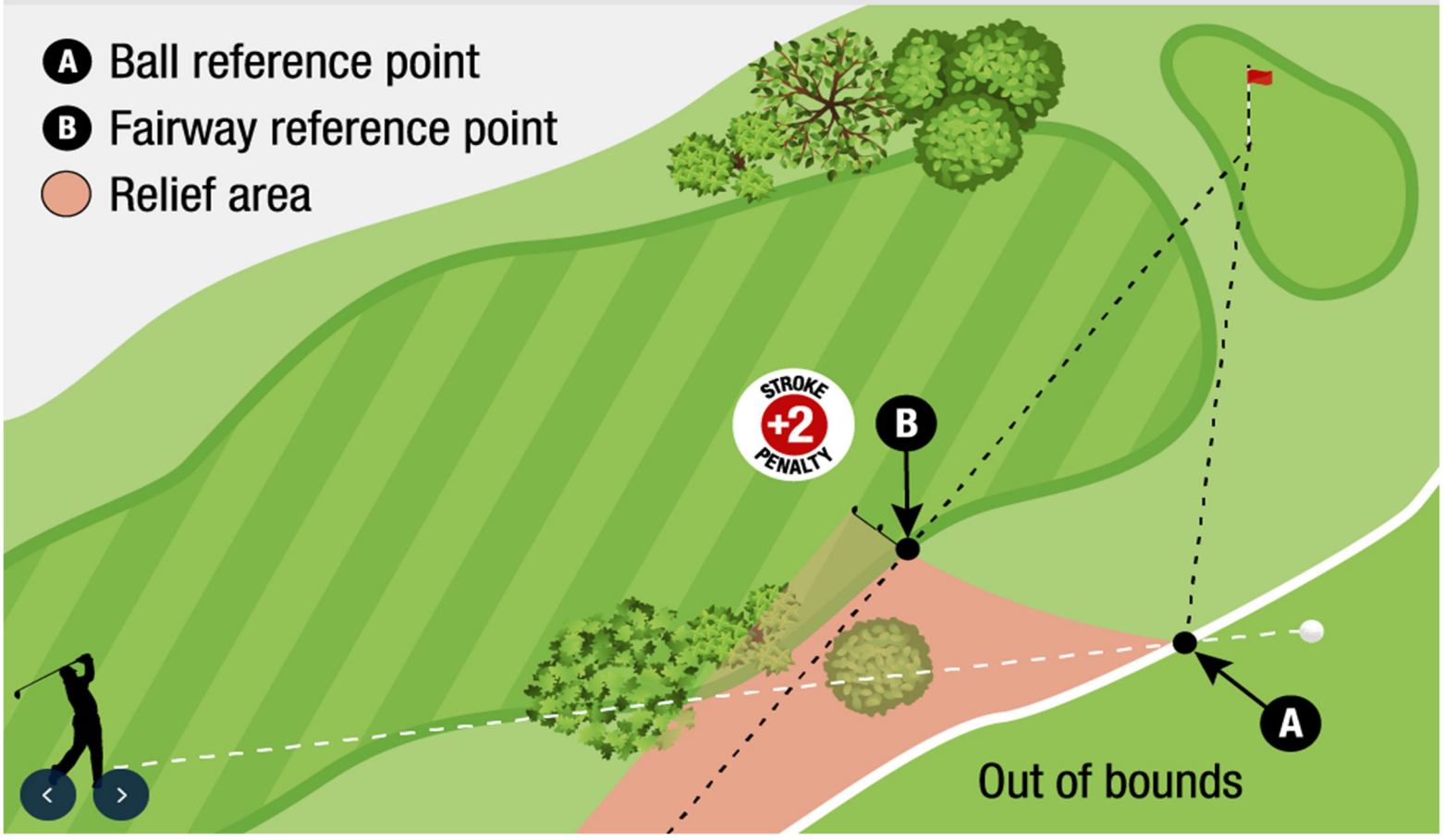
Active in all club competitions unless otherwise stated in specific competition Local Rules.

When a player's ball is lost **OR** is known or virtually certain to be out of bounds, the player must proceed under Stroke and Distance in accordance with Rule 18 **OR** use the Alternative to Stroke and Distance option as shown in the diagrams below.

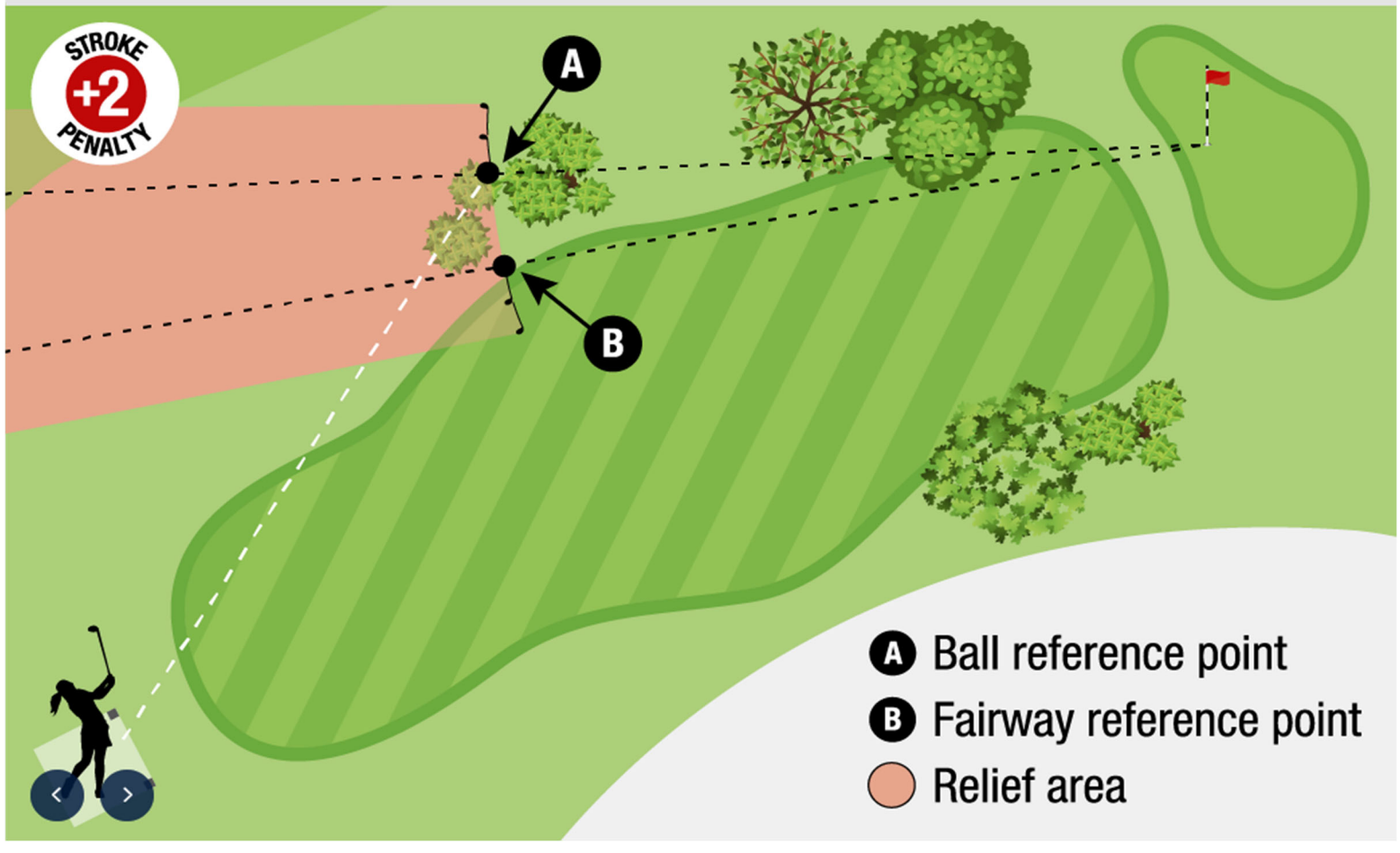
But the player **may not use this option** when:
(a) the ball is known or virtually certain to have come to rest in a Penalty Area. Or,
(b) the player has played another ball provisionally under penalty of stroke and distance (see Rule 18.3).
(c) there is no part of the General Area cut to fairway height or less that is equidistant to the hole than the ball reference point. This could be on some par 3 holes or if a drive does not reach as far as the fairway.

Drop a ball in the relief area shown below for a **two-stroke** penalty.

MLR E-5 DIAGRAM 2: BALL OUT OF BOUNDS



MLR E-5 DIAGRAM 1: BALL NOT FOUND



8. PENALTY AREAS

Defined by yellow or red stakes (with or without **orange tips**).

The margin of all Penalty Areas is the line running between the course-side points of the Penalty Area stakes.

If a player's ball is in a penalty area (including when it is known or virtually certain to be in a Penalty Area even though not found), the player may take relief using one of the appropriate options under Rule 17.1d. **Exception: Penalty Area with Orange-tipped red stakes – relief must be taken.**

Relief on Opposite Side of Red Penalty Area. Model Local Rule B-2.1
Only applies to the Red Penalty Area between the 1st and 18th holes
If the ball last crossed the edge of the red penalty area **between the 1st and 18th holes**, as an extra relief option for one penalty stroke, the player may drop the original ball or another ball on the opposite side of the penalty area:
Reference Point: The estimated point on the opposite edge of the penalty area that is **the same distance from the hole as the estimated point where the original ball last crossed the edge of the red penalty area**. Such that a straight line between these two estimated points does not cross outside the penalty area.
Size of Relief Area Measured from Reference Point: Two club-lengths in the General Area, no closer to the hole than the reference point.

9. RELIEF FROM TREE ROOTS (Model Local rule F-9)

If a player's ball lies in the General Area and there is interference from an exposed tree root that is **more than one club-length from the base of a tree,** the tree roots are treated as ground under repair. The player may take free relief under **Rule 16.1b**. But relief is not allowed if the tree root only interferes with the player's stance.

10. COMPULSORY DROPPING ZONES ON 9th HOLE

The following Abnormal Course Conditions between the left side of 9th hole adjacent to the 14th tee box area, are all considered to be a **Single Abnormal Course Condition**:

- The blue-staked area of hedge.
- The safety fence that lies between the blue-staked area and the path.
- The formed path between the safety fence and 14th tee box.

When the lie of the ball results in any interference to the player's stance or area of intended swing by any part of this **Single Condition**, the only relief available without penalty is to drop the original ball or another ball in the nearest Dropping Zone to where the ball lies, no closer to the hole.

There are two metal-ring Dropping Zones located on the 9th hole side of the single Abnormal Course Condition. A Dropping Zone is a relief area under Rule 14.3.
The metal rings are immovable obstructions. This includes after a ball has been dropped in the Dropping Zone under this Local Rule. The player may take free relief under Rule 16.1b.

The player must not take nearest point of complete relief under Rule 16.1 but may use one of the penalty relief options available under Unplayable Ball - Rule 19, if preferred.

Penalty for playing a ball from a Wrong Place in breach of any Local Rule: General Penalty under Rule 14.7a: Stroke Play – Two strokes. Match Play – Loss of Hole.

Questions? Call Kevin 027 449 2777