

SOUTHBRIDGE SAVANNAH GOLF CLUB

LOCAL RULES AS OF 11 01 2023

(Revised 01 10 2026)

(NOTE: The General Area of the Course includes all but your Teeing Area, your Putting Green, all Bunkers and all Penalty Areas)

1. ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITIONS:

(Normal relief from Abnormal Course Conditions is within one club-length of the nearest point of relief not closer to the hole, but in a **Bunker** it must be within the **Bunker**.)

- a. Tree Roots within **four club-lengths of the fairway** are **Special Abnormal Course Conditions** when they interfere with a player's swing, but not with the player's stance. **Relief is limited to lifting and dropping the ball at the nearest point that provides relief from roots and is not nearer the hole.**
- b. All Ant Hills within the **General Area** are Abnormal Course Conditions.
- c. All areas of the **General Area** that for any reason have not **been maintained within the prevalent conditions of the specific area of the course** are Abnormal Course Conditions.

Examples are:

- (1) Significant bare spots on **Putting Greens (if your ball is on the Green)** and in **Fairways**,
- (2) Areas in a **Fairway** that are unable to be mowed to the general height of the **Fairway**,
- (3) Areas of the **Rough** unable to be mowed to the general height of the **Rough**,
- (4) Piles of debris that cannot be readily removed as loose impediments, but not the normal presence of loose impediments just because they cannot be removed without causing the ball to move,
- (5) And damage caused by carts and equipment.

This does not apply to bare spots outside of the **Fairway**.

- d. In a **Bunker**, Abnormal Course Conditions include temporary water, unrepaired washouts, significant abnormalities resulting from poor maintenance, but not previous unrepaired damage caused by other players.
- e. Damage caused by animals, including, but not limited to, hoof or paw prints, are Abnormal Course Conditions throughout the **Course**, except in **Penalty Areas**.
- f. Aeration holes that interfere with the lie or swing, but not stance, are Abnormal Ground Conditions.
- g. Large, deep accumulations of leaves are Abnormal Ground Conditions in the following areas:
 - (1) The **General Area** to the right of Hole Number 1.
 - (2) The **General Area** to the left of Hole Number 3.
 - (3) The **General Area** to the left of Hole Number 7.
 - (4) All **Bunkers**

This applies to accumulations of leaves deeper than a golf ball covering an area large enough to make it very difficult to find a ball within 3 minutes. It applies even if the ball is found in bounds.

It applies to all **Bunkers** when a ball has come to rest on an accumulation of leaves.

When it is known, or virtually certain, that a ball has come to rest in bounds and in this Abnormal Ground Condition, the player may take relief within one club-length of the point at which the ball entered the Abnormal Ground Condition, but no closer to the hole than that point.

When the ball is in a **Bunker**, relief must be taken within the **Bunker**.

2. BUNKERS UNDER REPAIR:

- a. **Bunkers** completely full of water, whether marked or not, are considered Ground Under Repair.

3. COURSE CONDITIONS:

- a. Whenever wet conditions of the **General Area** of the hole being played result in visible mud on the ball, the ball may be marked, lifted, cleaned and replaced on its original spot.

4. PROVISIONAL BALLS:

- a. On Holes No. 4, 7, 12 and 17 provisional balls may be played for a ball thought to be in a **Penalty Area**. The provisional ball may be played using any option available for the ball in the **Penalty Area**. If the original ball is found outside the **Penalty Area**, the provisional ball must be abandoned. If the original ball is found inside the **Penalty Area**, the player may choose which ball with which to continue play mindful that the provisional ball is subject to the penalty for a ball in a **Penalty Area**.

REMINDER: At Southbridge, whenever **Penalty Areas** are bounded on the far side by residents' yards, the entire areas beyond the **Penalty Areas** are **Out of Bounds**.

REMINDER: The Rules of Golf prohibit free relief from Abnormal Ground Conditions in certain cases.

From Rule 16.1(3)

“ **No Relief When Clearly Unreasonable to Play Ball**. There is no relief under [Rule 16.1](#):

- When playing the ball as it lies would be clearly unreasonable because of something from which the player is not allowed to take free relief (such as when a player is unable to make a *stroke* because of where the ball lies in a bush), or
- When interference exists only because a player chooses a club, type of *stance* or swing or direction of play that is clearly unreasonable under the circumstance