

## Cordova Bay Golf Course Common and Local Rules

The rules of golf can be confusing, to say the least. Ideally, all your drives go straight down the middle and your approach shots clear the hazards nicely and settle by the pin. When they don't, and you must take a penalty or a drop, it helps to know your options, and you may not have much time. Not a problem playing among understanding friends who turn a blind eye, but blind eyes don't get turned so often in tournaments.

The Men's Club board of directors has prepared this sheet as a quick reference to the R&A Rules of Golf, focusing on rules that frequently cause confusion and incorporating Cordova Bay permanent local rules. We hope members will find it useful. NB: These are the rules for stroke play; match play rules may differ slightly (but not for drops).

Abbreviations: CB, Cordova Bay; GUR, ground under repair; NPR, nearest point of relief; OB, out of bounds.

### 1. **When Good Balls Go Bad: Out-of-Bounds, Lost, Unplayable, or Simply Wrong**

- Ball might be OB or lost outside a water hazard? Before going forward, hit a **provisional** from where you last played (after the others have hit), and say "provisional" out loud. *Rule 27-1; Rule 10-3*
- If ball **out of bounds**, you MUST play your provisional and take a 1-stroke penalty (lying 3 for a tee shot). *Rule 27-1b* All boundary fences and white-stakes at CB are OB (local rule). A ball is only OB if completely OB.
- If **lost ball** found (search *briefly*, 5 minutes max), you must play it. If ball lost, play the provisional. If you didn't hit a provisional, go back to where you last played and re-hit; this becomes your ball in play. *Rule 27-1c*
- If ball **unplayable**, you have 3 options (1 penalty stroke): 1. Drop within 2 club lengths (using any club). 2. Drop anywhere on backwards extension of a line from hole to your ball. 3. Re-hit. You can declare any ball unplayable that is not in a water hazard. Unplayable ball in a bunker must remain in the bunker. *Rule 28*
- **Naturalized areas** defined by split rail fencing and ornamental flower/shrub beds are designated GUR from which play is prohibited (CB local rule). Drop without penalty within 1 club-length of NPR.
- If a **staked tree**, its stakes or supporting wires interfere with your stance or area of intended swing, you may take a free drop within 1 club length of NPR (CB local rule).
- The **practice green** behind the 9<sup>th</sup> hole is a wrong putting green. Free drop within 1 club-length of NPR (CB local rule). *Rule 25-3*
- Hitting a **wrong ball** (e.g., your partner's or opponent's) – 2-stroke penalty. Check before hitting. *Rule 15-3*

### 2. **Here Be Dragons: Water Hazards, Bunkers, Abnormal Ground Conditions**

- **Yellow-staked water hazard.** Play ball as it lies OR (1-stroke penalty) 1. Drop anywhere on backwards extension of line from hole to point where ball last crossed hazard margin. 2. Re-hit. *Rule 26-1*
- **Red-staked lateral water hazard.** Two additional options: 3. Drop within 2 club lengths of entry point, not closer to hole. 4. Drop within 2 club lengths of the point opposite entry point same distance from hole.
- Additional option on CB holes 13 and 17: play from **drop zone**, when available (1-stroke penalty).
- Water hazard boundary is **mowing line**, not straight line between stakes (CB local rule).
- You may not hit a provisional ball when you believe your shot has landed in a water hazard. *Rule 27-2*
- **Grounding club** is 2-stroke penalty (your club may touch the grass if not testing hazard condition). *Rule 13-4*
- A ball touching the water hazard line is completely in the hazard. *Decision 26/1*
- Abnormal ground condition: **ground-under-repair** (usually marked by flagged ropes or small red or green stakes): optional free drop within 1 club length of NPR not nearer to hole, or hit from GUR. *Rule 25-1*
- Abnormal ground condition: **casual water**. Same option as GUR. Casual water must be visible on surface when you take normal stance. *Decision 25/4* On green, relief may be taken if casual water on line of putt (place rather than drop at NPR), but you may not brush water aside (*Rule 16-1*); in bunker, ball must remain in bunker after drop. *Rule 25-1b*

### 3. Obstructions and Other Nuisances

- **Loose impediments** (e.g., leaves, stones): remove without penalty except in bunkers and water hazards. *Rule 13-4* Sand is a loose impediment only on the green, not on fringe or fairway (*Definitions*).
- **Movable obstructions** (e.g., bottles, cans, rakes, scorecards): remove anywhere without penalty. *Rule 24-1*
- **Immovable obstructions** (artificial, human fabricated obstacles, e.g. cart path, split rail fence) interfering with your stance or intended area of swing: drop within 1 club length of NPR. There is no relief from immovable obstacles defining out of bounds. *Rule 24-2; Obstructions definition*
- **Stakes.** If a stake marking a water hazard, GUR or distance from the green interferes with your stance or intended area of swing, you may temporarily remove it. You may not move white OB stakes. *Decision 24/5*
- **Players and equipment.** You incur a 1-stroke penalty if your ball strikes yourself or your partner (not opponent) or your or your partner's equipment. (Rule change in 2019 will drop the penalty.) *Rules 19-2, 19-3*
- **Don't chatter** when your partner or opponent is preparing to hit, and be courteous always. *Section I: Etiquette*

### 4. Taking a Drop by the Book

- Drop ball at arm's length from shoulder height. Player must drop own ball. *Rule 20-2*
- When locating NPR, use the club you would ordinarily use from that location if the condition requiring relief did not exist. *NPR definition.* You may then use any club to determine permitted 1 or 2 club lengths.
- If dropped/redropped ball falls into a hazard, etc., place it where it struck course when redropped. *Rule 20-2*
- Remember—1 club length when you get free relief; 2 club lengths when you take a penalty drop.

### 5. Unintended Consequences: The Horror of Accidentally Moving Balls

- **Play the ball as it lies** through the green (fairway and rough). No touching, lifting, or cleaning (*Rule 13-1*) unless ball on green (not including fringe) *Rule 16-1*. Exceptions: (a) **embedded ball** (local CB rule) Lift, clean and place. *Rule 25-2; Decision 25-2/0.5* (b) **winter rules** (local CB rule). Lift, clean and place within 6 inches.
- Ball accidentally moved **on the teeing ground**. Ball not in play as no stroke made with intent; replace ball without penalty. *Rule 11-3*
- Ball accidentally moved by player or partner **anywhere else**, including by practice stroke, must be replaced in **its original position** with a 1-stroke penalty. The penalty is 2 strokes if the ball is not replaced.
- Ball moves when you are addressing it or removing loose impediments, or is accidentally moved on the green by you or your partner when not marked—1-stroke penalty and replace ball to original location. (Rule change in 2019 will remove penalty.) *Rule 18-2*
- Ball moved by **outside agency** (e.g., refreshment cart, goat) or by opponent. No penalty; replace ball. *Rule 18-1*
- Ball at rest **moved by another ball** in motion. No penalty; replace only ball that was moved. *Rules 18-5, 19-5.*
- **Double hit:** 1-stroke penalty regardless of whether it's a double hit or triple hit or quadruple hit. *Rule 14-4*

### 6. Play Well and Play Quickly: Pace of Play Tips

The R&A estimates that if every player in a foursome takes 5 seconds less for each shot, the time for completion of the round will be reduced by 25 minutes. Aim to complete a round at Cordova Bay in less than four hours and 20 minutes.

- Never lag more than half a hole behind the group in front of you.
- If behind, **play "ready golf"**. Whoever gets to the tee box first hits first, *Rule 10-2* notwithstanding.
- On the fairway, be ready to hit as soon as it is your turn. (No penalty for playing out of turn in stroke play.)
- On the green, place your bag or cart to enable quick movement to the next tee.
- Read your putt before it's your turn to hit. Don't waste time deliberating.
- **Fill divots from your sand jug** quickly and toss the divot into the rough. Do NOT replace divots at CB.
- No penalty for explaining a rule to a partner or competitor, as it does not constitute giving advice. *Definitions*

# Cordova Bay Men's Golf Club

## Golf Rules Cheat Sheet—Penalties and Drops

What to do in stroke play when...

Situation	Penalty	Options
<i>Ball OB or lost outside of water hazard</i>	1 stroke (e.g., lie 3 from tee)	Hit provisional before going forward to search. Say "provisional". If OB or lost, play provisional.
<i>Ball unplayable</i>	1 stroke	3 options: Drop within 2 club lengths no nearer hole OR Drop on backwards extension of line from flag to ball OR Play from where previous stroke played. [You can declare any ball unplayable except in water hazard. Unplayable ball in bunker must be dropped in bunker unless playing from where previous stroke played.]
<i>Naturalized area</i>	No penalty	Drop within 1 club length of nearest point of relief. [Naturalized areas include all ornamental flower/shrub beds and areas inside split rail fencing.]
<i>Staked tree</i>	No penalty	If tree or stakes or supporting wires interfere with stance or area of intended swing, drop within 1 club length of nearest point of relief.
<i>Water hazard (yellow stakes)</i>	No penalty	Play ball as it lies. OR
	1 stroke	Drop anywhere on backwards extension of line from flag to point of entry. OR Re-play from where last stroke taken.
<i>Lateral water hazard (red stakes)</i>	1 stroke	Same options as for yellow-stake hazard PLUS 2 more: Drop within 2 club lengths of entry point, no closer to hole. OR Drop within 2 club lengths of point opposite entry point same distance from hole.
<i>Ground under repair</i>	No penalty	Drop within 1 club length of nearest point of relief. OR Hit ball where it lies in ground under repair.
<i>Casual water</i>	No penalty	

<p><i>Immovable obstruction (eg., cart path, split rail fence)</i></p>	<p>No penalty</p>	<p>Same options as for ground under repair except, when on green, place rather than drop at NPR. Same relief permitted from casual water on line of putt. [Casual water must be visible when you take your stance.]</p> <p>Drop within 1 club length of nearest point of relief. No relief if obstruction defines out of bounds (e.g., fence or hedge).</p>
<p><i>Movable obstruction</i></p>	<p>No penalty</p>	<p>Remove anywhere.</p>
<p><i>Loose Impediment</i></p>	<p>No penalty</p>	<p>Remove anywhere except in bunker or hazard.</p>
<p><i>Playing wrong ball</i></p>	<p>2 strokes</p>	<p>Correct the mistake by playing correct ball.</p>
<p><i>How to take a drop</i></p>		<p>Determine nearest point of relief using club you would use if condition requiring relief did not exist. Use any club to measure 1 or 2 club-lengths. Drop at arm's length from shoulder height.</p>