

GTGP Local Rule 2019. Alternative to Stroke and Distance for a Ball That is Lost or Out of Bounds

Background. Significant issues with pace of play can result from players needing to take *stroke-and-distance* relief for a ball that is *out of bounds* or cannot be found when a provisional ball has not been played. The purpose of this Local Rule is to allow a *Committee* to provide an extra relief option that means that a player may play on without returning to the location of the previous *stroke*.

(This Local Rule is not intended for higher levels of play, such as professional or elite amateur level competitions.)

This option allows the player to drop in a large area between the point where the ball is estimated to have come to rest or gone out of bounds and the edge of the fairway that is not nearer the hole

The player gets two penalty strokes when using this relief option, so that the relief is comparable to what could have been achieved if the player had taken *stroke-and-distance* relief.

Local Rule 2019

When a player's ball cannot be found or is *known or virtually certain* to be *out of bounds*, the player may proceed as follows rather than proceeding under *stroke and distance*.

For **two penalty strokes**, the player may take relief by *dropping* the original ball or a *substituted ball* in this *relief area* (see Rule 14.3):

Two Estimated Reference Points:

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*.

b. Fairway Reference Point: The point of fairway of the *hole* being played that is nearest to the ball reference point, **but** is not nearer the *hole* than the ball reference point.

For purposes of this Local Rule, “fairway” means any area of grass in the *general area* that is cut to fairway height or less.

Size of Relief Area Based on Reference Points: Anywhere between:

- A line from the *hole* through the ball reference point (or within two *club-lengths* to the outside of that line), and
- A line from the *hole* through the fairway reference point (or within two *club-lengths* to the outside of that line).

But with these limits:

Limits on Location of Relief Area

- Must be in the *general area*, and
- Must not be nearer the *hole* than the ball reference point.

But, the player may not use this option when:

- The ball is *known or virtually certain* to have come to rest in a *penalty area*, or
- The player has played another ball provisionally under penalty of *stroke and distance* (see Rule 18.3).”