

## **Rancho Las Palmas Local Rules   Revised November 2024**

All play is governed by the most current USGA Rules of Golf, and the following local rules subject to amendments by the Rules Committee as approved by the Rancho Las Palmas Women's Club Board of Directors.

### **1) Out of Bounds (Stakes, Paved Roads and Cart Paths)**

Out of bounds is defined by white stakes and the inside edge of paved roads. A ball that crosses a public road and comes to rest beyond that road is out of bounds, even though it may lie on another part of the course.

Out of bounds along the west side of Hole #6 West is defined by the outside edge (west edge) of Hole #6 West's cart path - extending from the "Teeing Ground" area to the inside edge of the paved road at Avenida Las Palmas.

South #8 left edge of cart path (west edge), extending from "Teeing Ground" area to the paved road at Avenida Las Palmas.

### **2) Out of Bounds (All boundary fences, white stakes)**

Hole #1 North. Left side marked with white stakes.

The farthest edge of the cart paths behind the following greens is "Out of Bounds":

- #9 North green
- #9 South green
- #9 West green

The out of bounds along the north side of #9 West and #9 South is the line extending from the back edge of the cart path which lies behind these greens to the out of bounds line defined by the white stakes along the western and eastern sides of these holes respectively.

NOTE: Disregard any white stakes that are placed beyond the farthest edges of the cart paths behind #9 South and #9 West greens.

### **3) Protective Fences:**

#1 North tee box fence by driving range—no relief.

#4 West—right side utility area (if ball is in the utility area or next to fence) - 1 club length relief, no penalty. If the fenced utility area is in your line of sight, you get line of sight relief to the green, no nearer the hole. No penalty.

### **4) Embedded Ball**

Through the green, a ball which is embedded in its own pitch mark in the ground, other than sand, may be lifted without penalty, cleaned, and dropped as near as possible to where it lay, but not nearer the hole. The ball when dropped must first strike a part of the course through the green.

### **5) Above Ground Sprinkler Posts**

Are deemed Immovable Obstructions under Rule 16.1 that a player must take a one club length relief, under rule 16.1a if they interfere with stance or swing only, one club length. No penalty.

Any player who believes the flight of an anticipated shot might strike an Above Water Sprinkler Post may, at his discretion, take free relief up to 2 club lengths no closer to the hole within the General Area of the course. The ball must be dropped, not placed.

### **6) Sprinkler Heads**

If a sprinkler head is within 2 club lengths from green and your ball lies within two club-lengths (on closely mown area– fairway length) of a sprinkler head or utility cover that interferes with the line of play, relief may be taken by lifting and dropping the ball at the nearest point of relief no nearer to hole. (Or placing the ball if the ball is on the green.) (See Appendix I-6 in the Rules of Golf.) No penalty.

### **7) Penalty Areas (Provisional Ball)**

Play of a provisional ball for a ball which may be in a penalty area, such that it would be impractical to determine whether the ball is in the hazard, or to do so, would unduly delay play, is permitted. If a provisional ball is played and the original ball is in the penalty area, the player may play the original ball as it lies or continue the provisional ball but may not proceed under USGA Rule 17.1.

Note: The provisional ball is to be played from the point where the original ball, which may have come to rest in the water hazard, was last played.

### **8) Staked Trees and Immoveable Yardage Markers**

These are to be played as immovable obstructions, (No Play Zone). Relief is permitted under USGA Rule 16.1f. This includes the 150 yardage markers and color fairway makers.

### **9) Hole #5 West Penalty Area**

The entire lake associated with #5 West and #6 West, and the adjacent water fountain/bougainvillea shrubs (located west of the #5 West green) shall be played as a penalty area, (red stakes).

### **10) Hole #9 South Drop Zone**

The drop zone near the penalty area on Hole #9 South is for female players only. Male players shall play the penalty area per Rule 17 – Penalty Areas.

### **11) Distance-Measuring Devices**

Players are allowed to use devices that measure distance only (e.g., GPS & Rangefinders). The use of devices that gauge or measure other conditions that might affect a player's play (e.g., wind or gradient) are not permitted.

### **12) Aeration Holes-Marks**

On fairway—place ball no nearer hole. On green—place ball no nearer hole. No penalty. Areas being maintained by grounds keepers and any ground keeping equipment. Drop no nearer hole. No penalty.

### **13) Provisional Ball**

For the sake of maintaining speed of play a PROVISIONAL BALL should be played if there is doubt about whether your ball is in bounds.

### **14) Hazard areas:**

All concrete surfaces that lie in the General Area of the course (i.e., not in a hazard) are to be considered "immovable obstructions" and are therefore subject to USGA Rule 16.1. This allows a free drop within one club length of the nearest point of relief, no closer to the hole. Please note that the ditch on 1 South and 9 North is still considered a red penalty area so there is NO free drop.

Also, please be aware that a player cannot stop a moving ball. If the ball lands on the concrete and subsequently washes out-of-bounds the "stroke-and-distance" penalty per USGA Rule 18.2a applies.

As a reminder standing water, whether on concrete or not, is treated as an abnormal course condition and free relief is given (Rule 16.1).

### **15) Flower Beds**

All flower beds are considered "No Play Zones" and USGA Rule 17.1e will apply EXCEPT THAT no penalty stroke will be added. When a ball comes to rest in any flower bed or when a player might stand in or otherwise damage a flower bed while making a shot, the player is required to take a free 3drop using nearest point of relief.

NOTE: When the flower bed lies within the lateral hazard free relief is granted OUTSIDE of the hazard.