

Spring is here!! Flowers are blooming and we are all excited to be out playing but conditions may not be perfect yet. It is still a little chilly and ground a bit wet on some days. Here are two rules that we all need to know.

There has been some questions lately on how to handle mud on the ball. For most days, mud on the ball is just part of the game. Of course when on the green, we are able to mark, lift and clean our ball anytime. But what about everywhere else on the course.

CWGA has a local rule to handle this situation and it has been approved by our Board and printed in our handbook. Here is what it says:

**Preferred Lies** (Winter Rules) – If adverse course conditions are present, the Head Golf Professional may determine “preferred lies” or “winter rules” to be in effect to promote fair play or help protect the course. This rule is in effect any time the course has put “Cart Path Only” in place. Under this rule, when a player’s ball lies in a part of the general area cut to fairway height or less on any hole, the player may take free relief and play the ball by **placing** the original ball or another ball **no more than one club length** from the spot of the original ball no nearer the hole. The ball must be placed in the general area and may be cleaned when lifted.

It is important for each player to ask in the Pro Shop if Winter Rules or Cart Path Only is in play for your round when checking in. Often there will be a sign posted above the counter at check in. If these conditions are not in place, we may not lift, clean and place the ball except on the green.

Secondly, the mound of dirt that has been placed on the left side of hole #5 on the red course has been determined to be ground under repair by the golf course. That means the top and side margins of the mound that are above the general area of the course. If a ball lands on any part of the mound, players are allowed complete relief by finding the nearest point of relief no nearer the hole that is at the course level and dropping the ball within one (1) club length of that point. This might mean the nearest point of relief may be behind the mound but that is “the rub of the green”. This is the same relief players take for other abnormal course conditions such as landing on the cart path or an embedded ball.

The penalty applies to the last hole of the player's round.

*Not eligible for payouts.*  
**ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITIONS:**

**Mower ruts** — In the general area, areas of deep ruts and damage caused by mower tires are treated as ground under repair from which relief is allowed under Rule 16.1b. Areas of mud that do not have deep mower ruts are not considered ground under repair unless marked as such.

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**Leaf Rule** — Areas of the course may be covered with loose impediments such as leaves, seeds, or cones making it difficult for the player to find or play her ball. These areas in the general area or in a bunker are ground under repair from which free relief is allowed under Rule 16.1 including a free drop.