

Email from February 8, 2023 to AZNWGA

Some questions came up after last Thursday's round, so I thought I'd clarify for everyone.

Arizona National:

**1. All non-turf areas and bodies of water should be played as RED Penalty Areas. Options if you hit into the penalty area.**

- a. Play ball as it lies. - No penalty stroke
- b. Replay from original shot location - 1 penalty stroke
- c. Choose a spot as far back-on-the-line from the hole through the point the ball last crossed the edge of the penalty area. Drop within 1 club length of this point, no nearer the hole. - 1 penalty stroke (see #5 below for more detail)
- d. Drop the ball within 2 club lengths from the point of entry, no nearer the hole. - 1 penalty stroke. (This might be the option instead of back on the line for hole 5, near the green...see #5 below)

NOTE: For a lost ball in a RED penalty area you can choose b,c,d above and you can always hit a provisional ball, if you're unsure.

**2. Out-of-Bounds is white stakes, fences bordering the golf course and public roadways.**

- a. Replay from original shot location - 1 stroke penalty

**Remember you can always hit a provisional ball.**

NOTE: It's probably rare to hit a ball out of bounds at AZ National since the entire non-turf (ie desert and lake) areas surrounding the fairways and greens etc are RED penalty areas. To hit OB you would have to hit over the homes, over fences and into streets, I'm currently unaware of any white stakes posted on the course.

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**General Golf Rules/Practices:**

**3. Immovable Obstructions (IM)** such as: drain grates, sprinkler heads. **Abnormal Ground Conditions (AGC)** such as: animal hole, temporary water, ground under repair or immovable objects....on the course

- a. If your ball is near or on an IM or AGC and this interferes with your stance or swing you are allowed FREE Relief with no penalty. Locate the nearest point of complete relief, mark point and drop within 1 club length of this point, no nearer the hole.
- b. If there is water in a sand trap, take your free relief in the trap. If you drop outside the trap it is a 2 stroke penalty

**4. Putting Green:**

- a. If a player accidentally moves her ball or ball marker on the putting green there is no penalty, just replace the ball or marker to the original spot.
- b. A player is not allowed to astride (straddle) the putting line or place either foot directly on the line or extension of the line behind the ball. This usually comes into play when someone wants to "tap" their ball from the other side of the hole...Best practice to avoid a penalty or loss of hole is to take your normal putting stance, even for the tap ins.
- d. Marking your ball **on** the green. Mark your ball first...If a player wants you to move your ball....place marker behind your ball, pick up ball, place putter head on green and find a spot in the horizon and move marker to new spot. Some golfers turn their marker upside down so they know to move the ball back to the original spot. To move the ball back, place the putter head down, locate your prior horizon spot, move marker, place ball down, pick up marker and putt. Just remember....**Move the marker, not the Ball.**

d. Cleaning your ball **on** the green. You're allowed to lift (mark your ball first) your ball and clean it. You're not allowed to wipe the ball on the putting green surface to clean it. It could be construed that you're trying to deliberately test the green...Best practice...bring a towel to the green to clean your ball. **See clarification in the February 20, 2023 Update Email.**

e. Marking your ball **off** the green....you can mark your ball off the green if another player has requested you do so. Place the marker behind your ball, hold the ball in between your fingers for everyone to see. You can not place the ball in your pocket, or clean it.

#### **5. To use back on the line relief:**

Stand at the spot where the ball entered the penalty area and line it up with the hole. Walk straight backwards as far as you want (keeping the point where the ball enters the penalty area between you and the hole always).

Drop the ball on the line.

The point where the ball hits the line is the center of the one club length 360° relief area. The ball is in play as long as it ends up within one club length of the center spot.

This option is not always available. On #5, for example, if you hit the ball in the water nearer the green you would have to drop the ball on the other side of the lake (on #18) to find a spot that keeps the point of entry into the water between you and the hole

FYI: The back on the line relief is a one club length (not two ) 360° circular relief area. It is ok if the ball rolls forward as long as it is in the one club length circle.

Finally, if you are playing and your group is not in agreement to the correct rule/option, do what you feel is correct and when you get in ask Jeff to clarify. Because if one person is unclear, then I'm sure others are unclear as well.

**The most important thing to remember is to have FUN...**

As always, feel free to ask questions and reach out to see any time.

Sue Crickmore - President