

2025 Rules of the Month

This year, we will focus on dealing with balls that land in penalty areas (red and yellow stakes) or balls that land in other junk (unwelcoming areas that are not penalty areas) on our Winchester course.

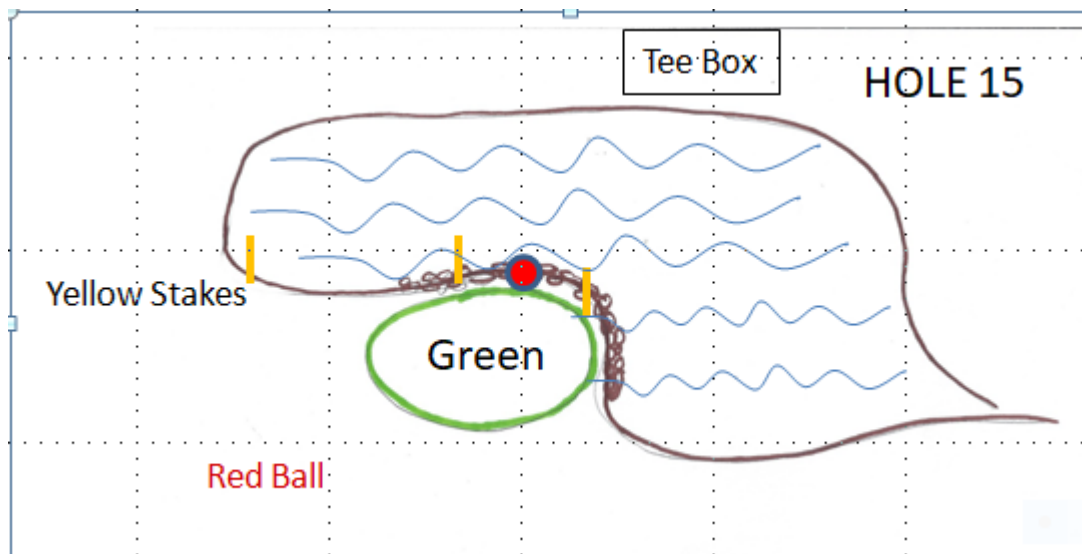
As a newer golfer or one who simply does not know some of the basic rules, this will help point out situations on our course that you experience every time you play. It's a good feeling when you know your options after you hit a ball into the junk. Beginning in February, we will focus on these areas by taking two holes each month from our Winchester course and applying the rules concerning your options. If this process is deemed too tedious or unhelpful, something new can take its place. Let's give it a try in February.

If you are a seasoned golfer, we will go over one or two unusual situations each month to challenge your knowledge of the rules. If you have situations that have posed problems for you and your group while playing, please send them to Shelley (neighbourfamily@yahoo.com) to be included in the rules of the month discussion. Thanks!

January Rule of the Month: a situation that happened to Trisha on **HOLE 15**.

The ball carries over the water and hits the green then bounces backward and lands just off the grass on the other side on the yellow stakes toward the water. It is situated up against the turf in the dirt such that it is basically unplayable although this is unknown until we reach the green to locate the ball.

Where do you take relief?



Answer: Even though the ball is considered unplayable, you can always gamble and try to "play the ball as it lies" by whacking it over the grass ledge, but it will likely hit the edge and roll back into the rocks or water. Otherwise, your only option is to go back to the tee box under "stroke and distance" and hit again. There is no lateral option with yellow stakes and you can't go back on the line even if you had a little patch of dirt available to give you some room to hit as you are not allowed to take relief in a penalty area.

While at the tee box, you are not sure if the ball is still on the course after it bounced. Should you play another ball? A provisional ball is not allowed if the ball is in a penalty area. Hole 15 is not covered by a local rule. What do you do?

Answer: The official answer is you go to the green and see if your ball is there and playable. If not, go back to the tee box and hit another ball. Commentary: There should probably be a local rule covering this so that a provisional ball can be taken to save time from having to go back to the tee box, similar to the local rules we have for many of the other holes.

Hole 15 - Drop Zone

When the first ball off the tee goes into the water on hole 15, a second ball needs to be hit again from the tee box. If this ball also goes into the water, you can move around to the Drop Zone near the green. You will be hitting stroke 5.

We are officially designating the **Drop Zone** as an area between 10 and 15 feet from The Rock (located on the right as you enter the area from your cart) going toward the water. Draw an imaginary circle approximately 6' in diameter around this point and drop your ball.

