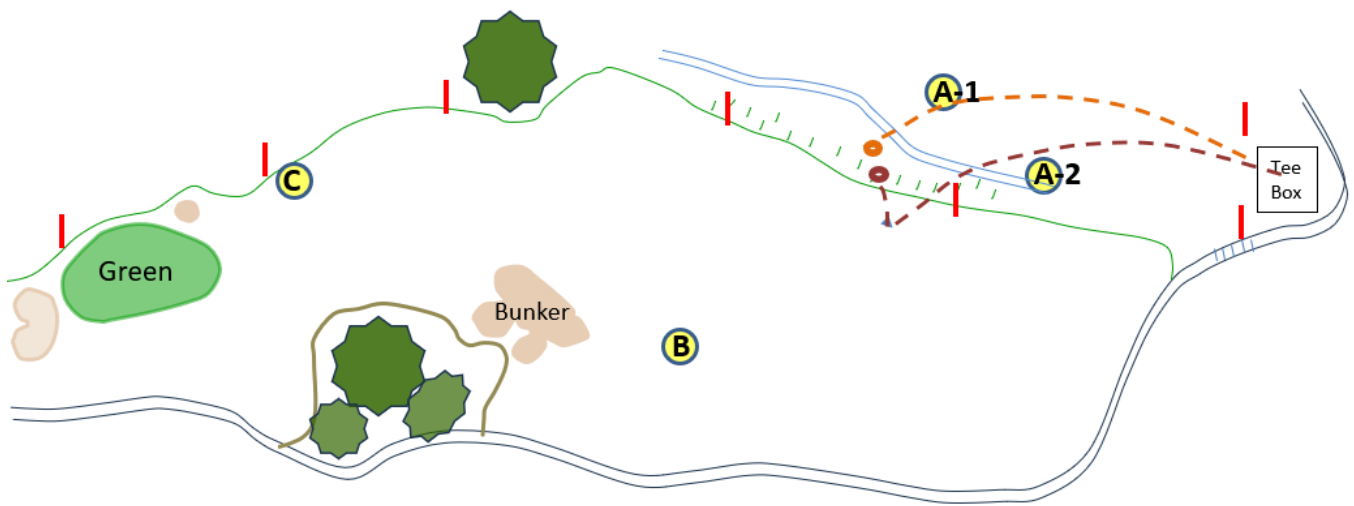


September Rule of the Month - Holes 17 & 18

We are getting to the end of the road. Holes 17 and 18 often hold a special feeling because we see the end in sight. And there is often a carrot dangling at the end. The bar!

Hole 17 – The topography of this hole makes the tee shot a challenge. During flight, you think all is well. But wait, did it take a jump to the right? Oh, oh... Let's discuss the various scenarios that might occur.

HOLE 17



A-1) Your ball flies directly into the penalty area. The ball therefore crossed into the penalty area right at the tee box. In this case, our local rules allow you to play a provisional ball.

- If the original ball is found outside the penalty area, that ball must be played.
- If the original ball is found in the penalty area, you may play either the original ball or play the provisional ball (playing stroke four).
 - Stroke 1 hit in the penalty area
 - Stroke 2 is the penalty stroke
 - Stroke 3 is hitting the provisional ball
 - Stroke 4 if playing the provisional ball

A-2) Your ball hits the fairway and then takes a jump to the right crossing into the penalty area. You may play the ball as it lies or take a one stroke penalty with these options:

- "Lateral relief" by dropping a ball within two club lengths from where the ball crossed into the penalty area. Your only reasonable option.
- "Stroke and distance" will take you back to the tee box. If you already took a provisional ball, then proceed as described above in A-1.
- "Back-on-the-line" is not an option because you can't drop in a penalty area.

Caveat: Your opponent or playing partners must agree that it landed past the penalty area (into safe territory) and bounced back. It's difficult to see where it initially lands. If they do NOT agree or if it is debatable, you must assume it's the A-1 situation.

B) You had a great tee shot that took you behind the bunker for your second shot. Not a problem if you can direct your ball to go where you want it to go. If you choose to remove the bunker and the big hill on the left from the equation, then you need to be careful not to hit too far to the right and land in the penalty area towards **C**. If you choose to go over the hill, a muffed hit may put you into trouble. Sometimes the hill will be friendly and spit it out somewhere, but not always. The hill is not a penalty area. If needed, take an unplayable ball for a one stroke penalty.

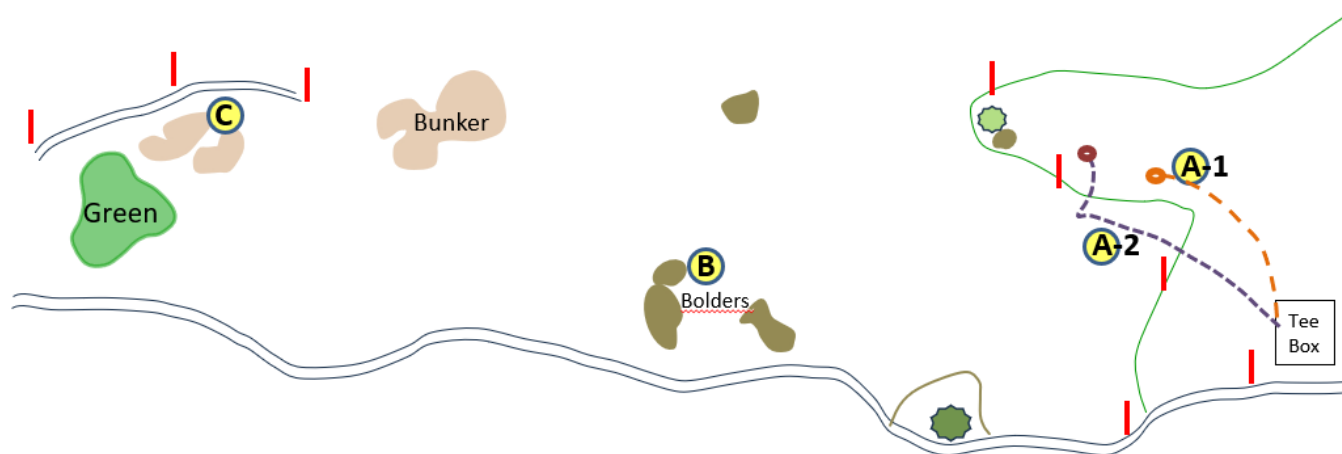
- "Stroke and distance" back to where you last hit the ball.
- "Lateral relief" by dropping your ball within two club lengths from where the ball lies no nearer the hole.
- "Back-on-the-line" from where your ball lies through an imaginary line to the hole as far back as you like.

C) The angles of the approach shot make it easy to end up in this penalty area. The area is full of thorny bushes, so it is generally hard to hit the ball as it lies. If you need penalty relief, here are your options:

- "Lateral relief" by dropping a ball within two club lengths from where the ball crossed into the penalty area no nearer the hole.
- "Stroke and distance" back to where you last hit the ball.
- "Back-on-the-line" is not an option because dropping in a penalty area is not allowed.

Hole 18 – Yea! Almost done. A nice wide hole but still with plenty of challenges.

HOLE 18



A-1) Your tee shot may head directly into this penalty area. This is a nasty area with tall weeds, rocks and a steep bank. Your most likely option is to hit another ball from the tee box. If you want to challenge yourself, you may try to hit the ball from where it lies. Good luck on that.

A-2) Your tee shot hits the fairway on the right but bounces into the penalty area. If you can't hit the ball where it lies, you may take a one stroke penalty with these options:

- "Lateral relief" by dropping your ball within two club lengths from where the ball crossed the penalty area no nearer the hole.
- "Back-on-the-line" may be a possible option in some circumstances but probably not better than using lateral relief.
- "Stroke and distance" back to the tee box.

B) The big boulders on the left may play into your second shot. Everyone should be aware of a possible ricochet. Balls can come back fast. They can also be a fun spectacle. Keep your head on a swivel. Also be aware of drives from hole 10 that can come into this area.

C) You might be excited to finish this hole with a great score, or you may be trudging along just wanting this whole ordeal to be over. Either way, landing in the bunker is a Big Bummer. Do what you can.

OK, we are done reviewing our course. Hopefully, the basic rules concerning penalty areas are now clear. We can now head to the bar and enjoy each other's company as we discuss the day's triumphs and travails concerning the great game of golf!

Advanced Rule of the Month – September

The practice green. Are there certain rules or common practices I should be aware of? Here is some food for thought.

- **Don't putt through other people's lines.**
 - Be aware of others. When someone is about to hit a putt, don't be the golfer who rips a long putt through their line to a hole on the other side of the green.
 - It's fine to hit longer putts, but make sure the path ahead of you is clear.
- **Don't walk through other people's lines.**
 - Just like you should never walk in other player's lines on the green, you should not do it on the putting green either.
- **Don't putt to holes that other people are using.**
 - Try to find your own space and give your fellow golfers theirs so you can each practice your putting in peace.
 - If the practice green is busy, you don't have any option but to share holes.
- **If the green is busy, don't set up a big putting drill.**
 - When the green is small or busy, don't create an elaborate putting game that crowds the entire area. Remember that this is a shared space.
 - Putting to one hole is fine, but don't force everybody else to work around you.
- **Don't dilly dally.**
 - Do what you need to do and get off the green so somebody else can work on their game.
 - That doesn't mean you need to rush, but it does mean you shouldn't waste time.