



COURSE MARKING & PRE - COURSE CHECK

- PROTOCOL -

Course Marking

- As we are a guest on their course, you must contact the Professional and/or Superintendent prior to arriving at the course. Let them know you will email them the most recent Notice to Competitors before arriving so they have a chance to look it over.
- Request to meet either of them the day you will be marking the course. Please ask for their club score card and look at any standard locals rules they have, as it may apply for us as well.
- When you talk with either of the staff ask if anything has changed on the course since our last visit. Do not assume that because it was on the previous Notice to Competitors that it still applies.
- Use common sense - keeping in mind the Rules of Golf.
- Be consistent from hole to hole and nine to nine.
- If you are ever in doubt about a specific condition on the course (allowing Preferred Lies/General Area relief etc.) get a second opinion if possible from another Rules Official or the Director of Competitions.
- If “mark, lift, clean and place” is to be used on all fairways, **you must** discuss this with the host Professional/Superintendent and with Lisa.
- The Course Marker should contact Lisa and the “Lead” Rules Official (for that specific event) if he/she feels that some area of concern that should be checked out on the day of the event.
- What should be marked: unusual damage to the course, areas damaged by golf carts or maintenance equipment & newly sodded areas.
- Paint should **NEVER** be used on permanent structures and very rarely on a green (permission must be given by the club first).

Out of Bounds

- Out of Bounds **MUST** be clearly defined. It is essential that it be possible to sight from one stake to another.
- Establish that sufficient stakes are present. Stakes should be around 15 yards apart. They may have to be closer if it is necessary to enable a player to sight from one stake to the next.
- Establish if there interference from trees, bushes or obstructions in the event that an official must stretch a string between the two boundary markers to determine whether a ball is OB.
- It is a misconception that it is not proper to define OB within a course. Often OB is marked in areas such as parking lots, clubhouses, maintenance areas or practice greens. If on course OB is a consideration for safety reasons and preventing players from ‘cutting a dog leg’, please call Lisa to discuss.

Ground Under Repair

- The course marker should survey the entire course prior to marking any GUR. What is thought to be GUR on the 1st hole may turn out to be common throughout the course. Be sure to get a detailed account of GUR situations from the pro/super before marking starts.
- Consistency is absolute KEY.
- Mark “bad” areas in landing zones on 4’s and 5’s, keep in mind whether the players are juniors/women/men.
- Mark “bad” areas within six feet of greens.
- Do not mark anything in the “rough” unless it is absolutely necessary. Only mark if the area is clearly under construction or badly damaged or rutted.
- Dead or dormant grass is not GUR.
- Areas within 100 yards of the tee (unless a short par 3) are generally not in play.
- Always remember to “tie” in your lines so that the marked off area is easily determinable by the player i.e. continue lines to an obstruction such as a cart path.
- The Committee has authority to declare an area to be ground under repair during a competitive round.

PENALTY AREAS

- Ensure all penalty areas are staked and/or marked FULLY. If you need extra stakes please ask the Superintendent if they can provide. If they cannot, please let Lisa know and we will see that some are brought out the day of the event and placed appropriately.
- Stakes are used to identify the position of the hazard.
- Lines define the boundary of the penalty.
- Stakes or lines should be placed so that they include rough banks and unkempt growth that is directly related to it.
- In general, they should be placed where the ground breaks down to form the depression containing the water.
- If there is a large bush just outside the natural margin of a penalty area it is suggested that the bush be included in. Otherwise a player whose ball entered the penalty area would not have a reasonable spot at which to drop a ball.
- If a body of water both a yellow stake and a red stake they must be placed together at the spot where the change takes place.
- Stakes should be placed outside the lines if both are used.

Drop Zones

- If a course has drop zones marked for their members, please determine why by asking Pro/Super, and communicate to Lisa.
- The Lead Official and Tournament Staff will determine on the first day of the event if it is indeed necessary.
- We will mark any drop zones on day 1 of the event.

REMEMBER, a player is not entitled to a perfect lie all the time, just a fair one!