



BHSML 2023 Local Rules and Points of Emphasis

1. **BHSML does not permit “Gimmees”:** You must putt your ball into the hole.
2. **Preferred Lie: The League plays “Winter Rules” or “Preferred Lie”** from the start of League play to June 1st and after September 1st.
 - a. The BHSML local rule for preferred lie relief may only be taken on balls that are in the fairway.
 - b. Mark Ball, Lift, Clean and drop the ball within 1 club length of the nearest point of relief, no closer to the hole. Once placed, no further touching or moving ball without incurring a general (2 stroke) penalty
3. **Lost ball or out of bounds:**
 - a. The League has adopted the USGA Local Rule E-5 for lost or out of bounds balls.
 - i. Estimate where the ball came to rest or went out of bounds (A).
 - ii. From that point, find the nearest point on the fairway, no closer to the hole (B).
 - iii. Drop ball in the fairway, within two club lengths of point B or in any spot in the rough between points A & B.
 - b. Your penalty is 2 strokes.
 - c. See USGA rule at <https://tinyurl.com/y2v88ows>
4. **Relief from a sprinkler head between your ball and line of play:**
 - a. Sprinkler head must be within 2 club lengths of the green AND the ball.
 - b. Relief is one club length from the original ball position. Drop with no penalty
5. **Promptness:**
 - a. **Be at your starting tee 10 minutes** before scheduled time.
 - b. Tee off when the group in front of you has cleared the fairway (see next)
 - c. Ready Golf: Go directly to your ball and be prepared to hit your shot when it is safe to do so.
6. **Take care of the course:**
 - a. Fix your ball marks, replace divots
 - b. Do not pull your ball out of the cup using the flag or your putter.
7. **Respect other golfers and staff:**
 - a. Contact the pro-shop if you observe slow play, dangerous conditions, or violation of BH safety rules.
 - b. Contact a board officer after the round if you observe a competitor breaking the rules of golf.