

## Local Rules for El Prado Men's Club events at El Prado Golf Courses - 2025

**Out of Bounds** is defined by white lines and stakes, and perimeter fences. On holes where white stakes and perimeter fences are present, the white stakes define *out of bounds*. A ball coming to rest on or beyond a public road is *out of bounds*, even if it comes to rest on another part of the *course* that is in bounds for other holes (MLR A-5).

**Ground Under Repair** is defined by white lines.

**Power Lines** - If it is *known or virtually certain* that a player's ball hit a power line, tower, pole, or a wire or pole supporting a power line, the *stroke* does not count. The player must play a ball without penalty from where the previous *stroke* was made under Rule 14.6 (MLR E-11).

**Paved and unpaved cart paths** and maintenance roads, and connected dirt areas, are a single *abnormal course condition*. The player may take free relief under Rule 16.1b (MLR F-17). Other dirt areas not marked as *ground under repair* are an integral part of the course.

**Furrows from water flow** in bunkers, or adjacent to cart paths and bridges outside of a penalty area, is *ground under repair*. The player may take free relief under Rule 16.1b or 16.1c (MLR F-1)

**Staked trees**, the stake, and the water well around the tree define a *no play zone* that is to be treated as an *abnormal course condition*. Free relief must be taken from interference by the *no play zone* under Rule 16.1f.

**Tree stumps** remaining after tree removal are an integral part of the course, no relief.

**Wood chips** spread as ground cover, including small mounds, are *loose impediments*. **Wood chips** in piles for storage or that have not been spread out are *ground under repair* and the player may take free relief under Rule 16.1b.

**Putting over Sprinkler Heads** – In addition to the relief from interference by an *immovable obstruction* under Rule 16.1, the player has an option to take relief when such *immovable obstructions* are on the *line of play*, within two club-lengths of the *putting green*, and within two club-lengths of the ball. Complete relief must be taken, which includes both physical and *line of play* interference. There is no relief under this Local Rule if the player chooses a *line of play* that is clearly unreasonable. (MLR F-5.1)

**Alternative to Stroke and Distance for Ball Lost or Ball Out of Bounds (MLR E-5)** – is in effect. When a player's ball is *lost* or *is known or virtually certain* to be *out of bounds*, the player may proceed as follows rather than proceeding under *stroke and distance*. For two penalty strokes, the player may take relief by *dropping* the original ball or another ball in this *relief area* (see Rule 14.3). The *relief area* is based on two estimated reference points. The Ball Reference Point is where the original ball is estimated to have come to rest if lost on the course, or last crossed the edge of the course boundary to go *out of bounds*. The Fairway Reference Point is the point of fairway of the hole being played that is nearest to the ball reference point, but is not nearer the hole than the ball reference point. For purposes of this Local Rule, "fairway" means any area of grass in the *general area* that is cut to fairway height or less. The *relief area* is between a line from the hole through the ball reference point (and within two club-lengths to the outside of that line), and a line from the hole through the fairway reference point (and within two club-lengths to the fairway side of that line). Within these limits, the ball must be *dropped* in the *general area*, not nearer the hole than the ball reference point. See MLR E-5 diagrams for more information. A player may use this option to take relief for a provisional ball that has not been found or is *known or virtually certain* to be *out of bounds*.

**Provisional Ball for Penalty Area (MLR B-3)** - If a player does not know whether his ball is in a *penalty area*, the player may play a *provisional ball* under Rule 18.3. Once the player has played a *provisional ball* under this Rule, he may not use any further options under Rule 17.1 in relation to the original ball. If the original ball is found in the *penalty area* within the 3 minute search time, the player may either play the original ball as it lies in the *penalty area*, or play the *provisional ball*. If the original ball is not found or identified within the 3 minute search period, the *provisional ball* becomes the ball *in play*.

**Chino Creek #7** – A dropping zone for the *penalty areas* is available as an extra option under Rule 17.1d. It is located on top of the mound between the cart path and the lake (foot golf tee), 70 yards from the center of the green. The dropping zone is a *relief area* under Rule 14.3. (MLR E-1.1)

**Chino Creek #7** – Behind the green, the area surrounded by the cart path is treated as part of the cart path, and they are a single *abnormal course condition* when taking relief under Rule 16.1.

**Aeration holes** – If a player's ball lies in or touches an aeration hole in the *General Area*, the player may take free relief under Rule 16.1b. If the ball comes to rest in another aeration hole the player may take relief again. If a ball lies in or touches an aeration hole or sanded area on the *putting green*, the player may take free relief under rule 16.1d. (MLR E-4)

**Tree Roots** - If a player's ball is in the *general area* and there is interference from exposed tree roots that are in a part of the fairway or in the rough within 2 club-lengths of the fairway, the tree roots are treated as *ground under repair*. The player may take free relief under Rule 16.1b (MLR F-9).

**Time of Starting** – In the absence of an official clock on the first tee, Exception 1 to Rule 5.3a is modified from “No More Than Five Minutes Late” to “before any player in the following group tees off”.

**Closest Markers:** Only names recorded in the correct flight are valid. If the player last name and the distance in feet and inches are not clear, the distance is invalid and the player will not be paid.

**Range finders with slope:** Rule 4.3a(1) is modified such that measuring elevation changes is allowed.

**Signing Scorecards** – The penalty for an unsigned scorecard in a tournament is 2 strokes (MLR L-1)

\*MLR refers to USGA Model Local Rules which provide background information. These are found in the [USGA Rules of Golf, Committee Procedures, Chapter 8.](#)