



2010 Local Rules

As previously stated, there have been some questions lately about rules and course set up and especially about when players could be entitled to relief without penalty. After discussing some of the issues recently with many of the members, I re-distributed all the previous "rules" and course set up instructions from 2008 from the Committee that was formed at that time. However, after reviewing all the previous recommendations and local rules from the 2008 Committee, and consulting with the membership and our Club President Greg Horgan, **we need to simplify matters.** We all have to try to get back to following the basic rules of golf. Those can be complicated enough at times and none of us are truly rules experts. Therefore, in order to make things more simple and take out as much judgement calls as possible, for the remainder of the Major Tournaments matches for this year, there are only two Local rules that are going to be in effect:

- 1) "Preferred lies" in one's own fairway
- 2) Embedded ball rule throughout the course (includes rough)

There will be NO other local rules in effect and all players should play under the regular USGA rules that govern all courses and all matches for the remainder of this year.

>**Hole #11** I was asked to make a ruling about the area to the left of the 11th green where there is a depression that was covered with grass on top of the drainage pipe leading to the Hazard. It may not have been publicized enough, but the ruling there was also that **the ball has to be played as it lies, No relief is entitled in that area.**

> **All balls in the rough will have to be played as they lie** unless they are on cart path or some other clearly defined immovable obstruction, ground marked with white lines signifying Ground under repair and relief is available under the regular USGA rules of golf.

>One of the most important rules in golf is that **No relief can be taken without first consulting with and informing your opponent of your intent to take relief (or penalty stroke if necessary)** You must inform your opponent before taking any action. Failure to do so would result in automatic loss of hole.

>Everyone should do their best not to put their opponent in the position having to agree to a relief situation that is questionable and/or calling a penalty on their opponent for taking relief without informing them. (or for some other rules infraction) After consulting with your opponent, if there is not immediate agreement about the condition in question, there is a simple way to proceed. If there are any questions or uncertainties about any relief situation, the player(s) should **proceed under rule 3-3 and play two balls, one with relief and the original ball without relief.**



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The players involved have to report it to me at the conclusion of the match and if the outcome of the hole or the match is affected, I will make a decision. If anyone is uncomfortable with my decision, we can consult with the USGA for a more "official" decision if needed.

The Assistant Manager, Joe has put out white lines around areas that have been officially marked as "Ground under Repair." **Besides those marked areas, there will be no judgment calls about whether the area should be ground under repair or not, and the ball will have to be played as it lies.** (again unless in casual water or abnormal ground condition that entitles one to relief under the regular USGA rules)

> Extension of Lateral hazards into the woods. **Similarly, any local rules to extend Lateral Hazards into the wooded areas (ex. Hole # 3 on left, Hole # 14 on the left of creek) are hereby suspended.** The Hazards are to be played only in the natural creeks (or creek beds if dry) and will NOT extend into the woods. Any ball that with reasonable certainty did not land in the hazard and went into the woods will have to be played as a lost ball (stroke and distance) if not found.

As always, if there is any chance that a ball is lost or OB, play a provisional immediately to avoid having to return the spot and play again if the ball is not found. If there is no agreement about whether the ball is in the hazard or the woods, play under Rule 3-3 and keep track of both scores and ask for a ruling at the end of the match is necessary.

Since we have a break in the Club Championship this coming week with the Doherty Cup on 9/11, this gives another week for everyone to review this information. We all need to be prepared to play all Club Championship matches starting on 9/18 using the regular USGA Rules of Golf only and eliminate any other local rules (other than the 2 above) and judgement calls outside those "Official" rules.

I'm sure we all want to enjoy the competition and the matches free of concern about rules infractions or rules questions. Do your best to follow the rules at all times during matches so the spirit of friendly competition at Saxon Woods continues as it should. If a question comes up, be open about it and share it with your opponent, and the rest of the group if need be, while the hole is in progress, so the proper action can be taken. (Playing the 2nd ball under 3-3 is always the best option if quick agreement cannot be reached)

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation! Any questions or comments, let me know ASAP.

Andy Eisenberg
Saxony Club Major Tournament Chairman.