

**IHSA Golf – Local Rule Adoptions for 2020**  
**(developed in consultation with the Chicago District Golf Association)**

**Bunkers** – Any area disturbed in a bunker is deemed an Abnormal Course Condition (Ground Under Repair). The player may take full relief or maximum available relief under **Rule 16.1c**, but the player must drop inside the bunker for free relief.

**NOTE: Rule 16.1** shall be modified as follows: interference exists only if the disturbed area in the bunker interferes with the player’s lie or area of intended swing (such as a ridge in front of or behind the ball). There is no relief for interference with stance.

- Disturbed areas include (but are not limited to) footprints and other disturbances that may have been caused by players, animals, or other sources (this does not include a disturbance created as a result of a previous stroke). When confronted with this situation, the player has the following options:
  - The player has the option to play the ball as it lies.
  - If the player takes free relief under **Rule 16.1c**, the player must drop the ball (from knee height) within one club length of the nearest point of relief or maximum available relief with the bunker, no nearer to the hole. The player is not permitted to place the ball unless the ball fails to stay within the relief area after two drops (**Rule 14.3c**). If a drop creates a new disturbance (such as a plugged lie), the player is not entitled to relief from that disturbance or to take a second drop because of that disturbance.
  - As an added option under **Rule 16.1c**, for a penalty of one stroke, the player may elect to use back-on-line relief by dropping behind the bunker along the line formed by the hole and the spot where the ball was at rest in the bunker, going back as far as the player wishes.

**Flagstick** – For the safety and well-being of all, the flagstick is not to be touched and is to remain in the hole at all times. Rule 13.2 is modified as follows: A player is prohibited from making a stroke with the flagstick removed from the hole. (NOTE: touching the flagstick inadvertently and the subsequent replacement of the flagstick is not of itself a penalty. Should a player inadvertently touch the flagstick, the player should take appropriate precautions and use hand sanitizer. If a player needs to re-center the flagstick, he/she may do so using a club.)

Penalty for Breach of Local Rule:

- First Breach – General Penalty
- Subsequent Breach – Disqualification

**Ball holed** – The traditional definition of *holed* has been modified to say: *If any part of the ball is in the hole below the surface of the putting green, the ball is treated as holed even if the entire ball is not below the surface.* This definition will be used for hole inserts (such as plastic piping, pool noodles, etc.) NOTE: If the ball does bounce out of the hole, the ball is NOT considered holed. Events should work with courses to determine whether inserts can be removed or not.

**Scoring/Scorecard Verification** – Players are encouraged to keep score using cell phones or some other means in lieu of a traditional scorecard. At the conclusion of a round, a player’s scorecard is considered returned and final after all players in the group have verbally agreed to the hole-by-hole scores while at the scoring table following the conclusion of a round. Once a player leaves the scoring area, no additional change to the player’s score can be made. Failure of a player to return to the scoring area immediately following a round will result in the player’s disqualification.