

**Victor Hill Golf Association  
Local Rules for Members' Play**

**USGA AND THE FOLLOWING RULES SHALL GOVERN PLAY:**

1. Standard markings are used for the following:

*Out of Bounds*- White Stakes

*Penalty Areas*- Yellow or Red Stakes or Lines (lines define margins)

*Ground Under Repair*- White Lines or Signs

*Penalty Areas* include any body of water on the course (whether marked or not), including a sea, lake, pond, river, ditch, surface drainage ditch or other open water course (even if not containing water).

Unmarked water bodies are red penalty areas.

*Ground Under Repair* areas defined by USGA rules are not necessarily marked. Damage caused by animal hoofs and newly sodded areas are also *Ground Under Repair* areas.

2. Graveled areas, unpaved cart paths and unpaved roadways are *Immovable Obstructions*.
3. Shrubs outside wooded areas, newly seeded areas, flower, and shrub garden areas including borders and turf grass nurseries are *No Play Zones* from which relief per Rule 16 is mandatory.
4. *Out of Bounds* stakes between Holes 2 & 11 East are *Out of Bounds* for only Hole 11.
5. Stakes, wire mesh and ropes installed within Penalty Areas to restrict migratory bird movement are *Immovable Obstructions*.
6. A *reference point* equidistant from hole on the opposite side of stream may be used when a ball lies within streams on 13 North and 15 East.
7. Christmas light figures are *Temporary Immovable Obstructions*. Relief without penalty for interference with stance, swing or line of sight is mandatory. Line of sight relief reference point is one club length from a straight line between interfering figure and flagstick equidistant from the hole.
8. On the East Course, unmaintained areas such as those with thick under brush and those with tall grass and plants such as milk weed, goldenrod, sumac and thistles are red penalty areas even if not marked.
9. As an alternative to the USGA Stroke and Distance Rule for Out-of-Bounds and Lost Balls, Local Rule E-5 is available which provides for a drop within a specified relief area. Details are in a separate document and available at usga.org.

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**The following local rules are in effect as long as the courses are altered during the Coronavirus Pandemic.**

10. When all bunker rakes have been removed from the course, the bunker areas are deemed to be part of the General Area with Abnormal Ground Condition. Free relief is allowed under Rule 16.1.
11. All yardage markers are considered Temporary Immovable Obstructions and not to be touched. Take free relief under Rule 16.1.
12. When the hole has been modified to prevent a ball from being holed, determine the most likely score based on Rule 3.3 in the Rules of Handicapping. Most likely score is at the player's best judgment and should not be used to gain an unfair advantage.