

STONEGATE GOLF CLUB OFFICIAL STANDING RULES "OAKS COURSE"

I. HAZARDS - OAKS

LATERAL HAZARDS:

Lateral hazards are marked by red stakes or are specifically identified under HOLE BOUNDARIES in Section II. If a ball is in or lost in a LATERAL WATER HAZARD (whether the ball lies in water or not), you may under penalty of 1 stroke:

OPTIONS:

1. Drop a ball within 2 club lengths of the point where the ball last crossed the margin of the hazard, not nearer the hole; or,
2. May replay the ball from the spot where you last struck it before it went into the hazard. (If from the teeing ground, the ball may re-tee.); or,
3. If possible, may keep the point of entry between you and the hole and go back as far as you wish and drop the ball; or,
4. You may, without penalty, play your ball from the hazard provided you do not sole your club or move any obstacles or objects from the hazard; *or*,
5. You may drop a ball at a point on the opposite margin of the hazard equidistant from the hole. The ball must be dropped and come to rest not nearer the hole than the point where the original ball last crossed the margin of the hazard.

WATER HAZARDS:

Water hazards are marked by yellow stakes or are specifically identified under HOLE BOUNDARIES in Section II. If a ball is in or lost in a WATER HAZARD (whether the ball lies in water or not), the player may under penalty of 1 stroke:

OPTIONS:

1. Play a ball as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was last played; or,
2. Drop a ball behind the WATER HAZARD, keeping the point at which the original ball last crossed the margin of the WATER HAZARD directly between the hole and the spot on which the ball is dropped, with no limit to how far behind the WATER HAZARD the ball may be dropped.

OUT OF BOUNDS:

OUT OF BOUNDS is defined as being beyond the boundaries (property lines) of the *course* or any part of the *course* so marked by *white stakes* or perimeter fencing.

OPTIONS:

1. You must replay the ball from the "*original*" spot where you last struck it before it went into the OUT OF BOUNDS area. (If from the teeing ground, you may re-tee the ball.) 1 penalty stroke; or,
2. If a ball may be questionable from the hitting point as to its OUT OF BOUNDS status, to *save time* the player may play another ball *provisionally*. The player shall inform his fellow competitors that he/she intends to play a *provisional* ball, and shall play it before his/her competitors go forward to search for the original ball.

II. HOLE BOUNDARIES - OAKS

Hole #1 Par 5

The right side of this hole is a "LATERAL HAZARD."

The lake on the left side shall be played as a "LATERAL WATER HAZARD."

All sand bunkers are considered HAZARDS and no club shall be grounded or the lie of the ball improved in the bunker. The bunker soil shall be raked after the ball is played.

Hole #2 Par 4

The right side of this hole is a "LATERAL HAZARD."

The left side (resident property) is played as OUT OF BOUNDS as marked by the white stakes.

The lake on the right side shall be played as a "LATERAL WATER HAZARD."

Hole #3 Par4

The right side of this hole (from tee to green) is a LATERAL HAZARD.

The left side (resident property) is played as OUT OF BOUNDS as marked by the white stakes.

Hole #4 Par 3

The right side of this hole (from tee to green) is a LATERAL HAZARD.

The left side (resident property) is played as OUT OF BOUNDS as marked by the white stakes.

The street on the left is out of bounds.

Hole #5 Par 4

The right side of this hole (from tee to green) is a LATERAL HAZARD.

The left side (resident property) is played as OUT OF BOUNDS as marked by the white stakes.

Hole #6 Par 4

The right side of this hole and the heavy foliage behind the green are LATERAL HAZARDS.

The Lake on the right side is a "LATERAL WATER HAZARD."

The left side is played as OUT OF BOUNDS as marked by the white stakes. The area left of the cart path is not a lateral hazard.

Hole #7 Par 3

The rear course boundary of the hole is marked by white stakes and is played as OUT OF BOUNDS.

The Lake on the right side shall be played as a "LATERAL WATER HAZARD."

Hole #8 Par 5

The trees, brush and palmettos bordering the fairway on the right side are a LATERAL HAZARD.

The left side of this hole is a LATERAL HAZARD to the point where the white OUT OF BOUNDS stakes begin.

Hole #9 Par 4

The right side (tee to green) of this hole is a LATERAL HAZARD.

The left side is played as OUT OF BOUNDS as marked by the white stakes, except that the Lake on the left side shall be played as a "LATERAL WATER HAZARD".

White stakes mark the course boundary behind the green.

Hole #10 Par 4

The right side of this hole (from about 75 yards) is OUT OF BOUNDS as marked by the white stakes, and the area behind the green are LATERAL HAZARDS, as staked.

The left side of this hole is a LATERAL HAZARD.

Hole #11 Par 4

The Lake on the right side shall be played as "LATERAL WATER HAZARD".

The left side of this hole is not a LATERAL HAZARD.

Hole #12 Par 3

If the ball does not carry over the WATER HAZARD and lands in the HAZARD, the player may play the ball as it lies with no penalty. Otherwise, under penalty of one stroke, he/she shall:

1. Re-tee the ball and hit again; or
2. Drop the ball at the designated drop area.

If the ball carries over the HAZARD and then rolls into the LATERAL WATER HAZARD (red stakes), it is played as a "LATERAL HAZARD".

NOTE: If in doubt as to the ball carrying over the WATER HAZARD, this local rule allows for a "provisional" ball to be played from the drop zone, in the interest of pace of play.

The area marked by red stakes, left of the cart path, is a LATERAL HAZARD; it must be played accordingly, which precludes use of the drop zone.

Hole #13 Par 4

The left side of the fairway (cart path) is a LATERAL HAZARD.

Hole #14 Par 5

The lake on the right side is a LATERAL HAZARD. The trees, shrubs, palmettos, etc on the right side of the fairway are considered in play.

The left side of the fairway (cart path) is a LATERAL HAZARD.

Hole #15 Par 3

The lake shall be played as a WATER HAZARD.

If the ball played carries across the WATER HAZARD and lands on the other side and then rolls back into the WATER HAZARD, then the player may play the ball as it lies with no penalty. Otherwise, under penalty of one stroke, he/she shall:

1. Re-tee and hit again; or,
2. Drop the ball in the Drop Zone and hit again.

Hole #16 Par 4

The Lake on the right side shall be played as a "LATERAL WATER HAZARD."

The left side (resident property) is played as OUT OF BOUNDS as marked by the white stakes.

Hole #17 Par 4

The far right side are a "LATERAL HAZARD" and the right side (resident property) is played as OUT OF BOUNDS as marked by the white stakes.

The Lake on the left side shall be played as a "LATERAL WATER HAZARD."

Hole #18 Par 5

The left side is played as OUT OF BOUNDS as marked by the white stakes.

The right side (resident property) is played as OUT OF BOUNDS as marked by the white stakes.

III. STANDING RULES

1. United States Golf Association Rules shall govern handicaps and conduct of play. The maximum handicap will be 36 for any and all SGC Men's Tournaments. The maximum handicap will be 40 for any and all SGC Women's Tournaments.
2. A minimum of 5 scores is needed for a temporary handicap; until a player has an established handicap, that player must play at "scratch". Each member should record a score for each round regardless of where it is played, along with the name of the course, date, and course slope/rating.
3. *All SGC Tournament* play scores will be recorded in the GHIN Handicap System and be indicated as Tournament only scores (in the system).
4. Stonegate Men's Golf Association (SMGA) Play Day will be each Wednesday on the designated course.

5. The Stonegate Women's Golf Association (SWGGA) Play Day will be each Thursday on the designated course.

6. The Stonegate Niners Golf Association (SNWGA) Play Day will be each Thursday on the designated course.

7. The Stonegate Couples Golf Association (SCGA) Play Day will be each Saturday on the designated course.

8. On Play Days and Tournaments, *no* ball in the fairway or ball in the rough shall be moved during play, unless "Lift, Clean, & Place (*Winter Rules*) are authorized by the Pro Shop.

EXCEPTION: League/group Tournament Directors may establish specific terms or conditions for specific events.

9. Distance-Measuring Devices: For all play at this *course*, a player may obtain distance information by using a device that measures distance only. If, during a *stipulated round*, a player uses a distance measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his play (e.g., gradient, wind speed, temperature, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 14-3, for which the penalty is disqualification, regardless of whether any such additional function is actually used.

10. On Play Days, prizes will be awarded according to the selected format of play for that particular event.

11. The SGC, SWGA, SNWGA, SMGA, SCGA Club Championship will be open to members of such who have paid their dues, have participated in 10 or more affiliated events, and have a USGA handicap based on 10 scores or more. EXCEPTION: League/group Tournament Directors may establish specific terms or conditions for specific events.

12. All Members will be responsible for "posting" their scores in the Handicap computer in the Pro Shop. These scores will be entered into the GHIN (Handicap and Information Network) handicap system. This process will provide any golfer with an established USGA handicap index that can be used for play on any course. The Stonegate Pro Shop will publish the members' handicap lists on the bulletin boards in the locker rooms. They will also make available current individual handicaps at the request of a member.

13. For any *trees* that are "staked" and interfere with the golf club swing plane, a ball may be dropped at the nearest point of relief, not nearer the hole, without penalty.

14. All sand bunkers are considered HAZARDS and no club shall be grounded or the lie of the ball improved in the bunker. The bunker soil shall be raked after the ball is played. Stones in bunkers are movable obstructions (Rule 24-1 applies).

IV. EQUITABLE STROKE CONTROL

To maintain the integrity of the Handicap System, an "Equitable Stroke Control" procedure is used for scoring purposes. All scoring (unless instructed differently) shall be adjusted by the golfer per the Equitable Stroke Control table, *prior to entering score cards for handicapping*.

Handicap Maximum Score per Hole

0 - 9 / Double bogey

10 – 19 / **7**

20 – 29 / **8**

30 - 39 / **9**

40 and above **10**

For example, a golfer with a 21 handicap can post a maximum of 8 on any hole including par 3s, 4s, and 5s with no limit on the number of 8s posted.

Any questions concerning a rule should be referred to the "Rules Chairperson" or one of the Stonegate Golf Professionals.