



**THE INDIAN GOLF UNION  
New Delhi, INDIA**

**THE IGU'S GUIDELINES ON PREFERRED LIES**

**A. INTRODUCTION**

It is a recognised fact that, due to various reasons, many of the Golf Courses in India do not have manicured fairways, or adverse conditions, such as prolonged rains or extreme heat can make fairways unsatisfactory and sometimes prevent the use of heavy mowing equipment, requiring the lie of the ball to be preferred.

It has been observed that each Club has employed a different Local Rule, most of which are not consistent with the R&A's recommended Local Rule.

With the Rules having gone substantial changes, the MODEL LOCAL RULE for preferred lies is now in effect in India.

The R&A is recognised as the Governing body for Golf by India and the R&A's Rules of Golf are in effect, in India and administered by the IGU.

Accordingly, the IGU is issuing this advisory to all Golf Clubs in India on the use of the preferred lie Rule.

**B. RECOMMENDED LOCAL RULE**

**Model Local Rule E-3**

When a player's ball lies in a part of the general area cut to fairway height or less [or identify a specific area such as 'on the fairway of the 6th hole'], the player may take free relief once by placing the original ball or another ball in and playing it from this relief area:

Reference Point: Spot of the original ball.

Size of Relief Area Measured from Reference Point: [Specify size of relief area, such as one club-length, one scorecard length or 6 inches] from the reference point, **but** with these limits:

Limits on Location of Relief Area:

Must not be nearer the hole than the reference point, and

Must be in the general area.

In proceeding under this Local Rule, the player must choose a spot to place the ball and use the procedures for replacing a ball under Rules 14.2b(2) and 14.2e.

**Penalty for Playing Ball from a Wrong Place in Breach of Local Rule: General Penalty Under Rule 14.7a.**"



### C. CAVEATS

1. Preferred lies are meant for a limited duration and must never be printed on the score card
2. Pace of play should not become an issue on account of time taken to mark, lift, clean and replace.
3. The player may set the ball down once and let it go so that it stays on that spot (Rule 14.2b (2))
4. The ball MUST be marked before lifting and tee or marker MUST be removed once it is placed. Failure to remove marker prior to play is a one stroke penalty ( Rule 14.1a)
5. Players are not permitted to place and replace till they are satisfied with the lie and are not permitted to test the lie by placing the club, foot or hand behind the ball, which is in breach of Rule 8.1
6. There can be no limitation on the number of times the lie of the ball can be preferred during the play of a hole.
7. The lie of the ball may be preferred if the ball comes to rest on ANY closely mown area as a result of drop taken under Rules 16.1 , 17.1d, 17.2,18.1,19.2a,19.2b,19.2c,
8. The lie of the ball may be preferred if the player is required to make the next stroke from where the previous stroke was made from the general area (Rule 14.6)

### D. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR ADVICE, CONTACT

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