



**COLORADO GOLF
ASSOCIATION**

March 15, 2019

CGA Recommendations for Course Marking Under 2019 Rules

This summary document is designed as a guide to assist CGA member facilities in: 1) Evaluating how to mark its golf course under the updated 2019 Rules of Golf; and 2) Considering whether to use the new local rule that offers an alternative to stroke and distance for a lost ball or ball out of bounds (Model Local Rule E-5). The ultimate decision on how to define the golf course is up to the discretion of the committee that operates the course. Any of the below recommendations will not affect course ratings.

CGA Recommendations

1. Do NOT define all unmaintained/natural areas of the course as penalty areas.
2. Use the local rule for alternative to stroke and distance for lost ball or out of bounds for daily club play but not for club championships.
3. Mark penalty areas similarly to how you marked hazards in the past, but consider adding new penalty areas or changing the color of a penalty area in rare cases.

Considerations/Support

- 1. Why NOT define all unmaintained/natural areas of the course as penalty areas?**
 - Player does not have option for unplayable ball relief.
 - Player does not have free relief option from abnormal course conditions.
 - Player cannot use the Local Rule for alternative to stroke and distance if a ball is known or virtually certain to be in a penalty area.
 - Uncertainty/dispute about where ball crossed the edge of the penalty area.
 - Uncertainty/dispute about defined edge of penalty area because it is impractical to physically mark all unmaintained or natural areas.
 - Removes the stroke and distance penalty for a lost ball in an unmaintained/natural area.
- 2. Why use the local rule for alternative to stroke and distance?**
 - Improves pace of play by no longer requiring players to go back under stroke and distance.
 - Eliminates the need to play provisional ball (at player's discretion).
 - Preserves the stroke and distance penalty for lost ball or ball out of bounds.
 - Gives players the ability to complete their round in accordance with the Rules.
 - Easy for players to understand and apply quickly.
 - Note: The CGA does not recommend using this local rule for club championships as it can undermine the challenge of having to get a ball in play under tournament pressure.
- 3. Why mark penalty areas similarly to past hazards? Why consider changes?**
 - Consistency from past marking leads to less player confusion.
 - Most penalty areas should be marked red. Consider marking a penalty area yellow only if it is very near and in front of a putting green or to preserve the integral challenge of the hole.
 - A distinct unmaintained/natural area that is significantly more challenging than most unmaintained/natural areas throughout the golf course (e.g. a small area of thick underbrush on a course where most unmaintained/natural area is thin fescue grass) could be marked as a penalty area even if it is not a body of water.