

OUT OF BOUNDS OR LOST BALL  
AGHH - LOCAL RULE  
Effective March 17, 2026

- When a provisional ball has not been played, significant issues with pace of play can result for a player needing to take stroke-and-distance relief for a ball that is out of bounds (OB) or is lost and cannot be found.
- The purpose of this Local Rule is to allow an extra relief option that allows a player to play on without returning to the location of the previous stroke.
- Alternatively, to stroke-and-distance relief, for two penalty strokes, estimate the spot where your ball is lost or went OB and find the nearest fairway edge no nearer the hole than the estimated spot. For purposes of this local rule, “**fairway**” means any area of grass in the *general area* that is cut to fairway height or less. Drop a ball in the fairway within two club-lengths of that fairway edge, or anywhere between there and the spot where your ball is lost or went OB. This means that the relief is comparable to what could have been achieved if the player had taken stroke-and-distance relief.
- This Local Rule cannot be used for an unplayable ball, or for a ball that is known or virtually certain to be in a penalty area.
- If a provisional ball is played and neither the original ball nor the provisional ball can be found, then the Local Rule may be applied for the provisional ball that cannot be found.
- This will speed up the pace of play.
- This basically turns out to be about the same scoring whether you drop for a 2-stroke penalty or go back and replay for a 1-stroke penalty.
- You still have the option of taking stroke-and-distance relief.