



Addendum to Tournament Rules November 2021

Circles around Hole and BSGS “Local Rule” for a Ball Lost or Out of Bounds

1. **NOTE THAT:** these are provided to aid quicker play at Tournaments. A “Gimmie” may be given **ONLY IF** your ball is completely inside the circle or, at least some part of the ball is covering the line (when viewed from directly above) and you partners agree.

No other Gimmies are allowed and if given or taken the player may be penalised.

2. **The Committee are aware that some people may not be clear of the Rule we apply for a Lost or Out of Bounds Ball in our Events. The following is an attempt to help but if you are still unclear please feel free to talk to one of the Committee members.**

First, a summary of the current General PGA rule for play or competitions involving Pro’s or highly/sufficiently skilled players. THIS IS DIFFERENT TO RULES FOR BALLS IN HAZARDS.

There is, however, an alternative ‘Local Rule’ that Societies and Clubs can implement and this is what BSGS have decided to apply in ALL our Events to help avoid slow play.

General PGA Rule - if your ball is lost or out of bounds your options are:

1. You are required to return to the place where you hit the ball and add a One Stroke penalty (Stroke & Distance) as you re-take the shot. For example, if from a Tee shot, you return to the Tee box to hit again and **that becomes your 3rd shot.**
2. If you *think* the ball may be lost or Out of Bounds, you *should* play a Provisional Ball - to save the time of searching for the first ball and then having to return to the original place you hit the ball if you do not find it. You **add the same penalty stroke**, so your **Provisional ball is your 3rd shot.**

(Note: you can play the Provisional ball again until it reaches or passes the point where your first Ball is or maybe, found.

THE ALTERNATIVE & BSGS RULE – allows the options above but adds an additional option below.

1. Agree with your playing partners where the ball most likely entered the Out of Bounds or was lost. You may then **drop a new ball** back on the fairway, NOT closer to the hole and within two club-lengths of the edge of the fairway NOT closer to the hole.

Play your shot **adding two shots**, for example, **if it was your tee shot your next shot is your 4th shot.** (The same rule applies again if you lose a ball or go out of bounds on any second or other shot.

If you **Find your original Ball** in the Out of Bounds area, you can drop it in the same way as the rule described (on the Fairway) **BUT STILL adding the two-shot penalty. For example, if it was your tee shot you are now playing your 4th shot.**

If anyone wishes to see diagrams and the official PGA rules to help understand you can click this link below.

<https://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/rules-hub/rules-modernization/infographics/golf-s-new-rules--stroke-and-distance.html#expanded>