



# SUN COUNTRY AMATEUR GOLF ASSOCIATION

1440 RIO RANCHO BLVD.

RIO RANCHO, NEW MEXICO 87124

(505) 897-0864 • 1-800-346-5319 • FAX (505) 897-3494

SCAGA@prodigy.net <http://www.newmexicogolf.org>

## Etiquette and Basic Rules Situations

March 15, 2006

### I) Etiquette

- a) Modified section in Rules of Golf Book in 2004
- b) Spirit of the Game (Show integrity, playing by the rules)
- c) Safety – Never stand in an area you may hit someone with the club, ball, divots, stones
- d) Consideration for other players (no talking, disturbing)
- e) Pace of Play – when it is your turn **BE READY**
- f) Care for the course (rake bunkers, fix ball mark, divots, never destruct an area – show poise)

### II) Basic Rules Concepts

#### a) Rule 15, Substituted Ball/Wrong Ball

- 1) You must HOLE out with the ball you started with, unless a rule permits substitution.
- 2) Penalty for hitting a wrong ball is two strokes. Mistake must be corrected before playing from the next teeing ground, or in the case of the final hole, leaving the putting green. Otherwise the penalty is disqualification.
- 3) There is no penalty for playing a wrong ball out of a hazard (water or bunker), but when getting to that ball outside the hazard it must not be played, otherwise it becomes a wrong ball.
- 4) Strokes played with the wrong ball do not count on your score, again just the two stroke penalty.

#### b) Rule 24, Obstructions

- 1) Obstructions are movable or immovable. Immovable obstructions, you are entitled to relief if the ball lies on the obstruction or it interferes with stance or swing. Relief for an obstruction causing problems with line of play is not allowed.
- 2) Definition of Obstructions: Anything artificial, including surfaces, sides of roads, and paths and manufactured ice.
- 3) For relief you are allowed stance, then one club length, no nearer the hole with a drop. When dropping, the ball may roll up to two club lengths. If a dropped ball rolls more than two club lengths, or goes nearer the hole, another drop is mandatory. Should the ball roll out of position again, it is placed at the spot where it first struck the course on the second drop.

#### c) Rule 26, Water Hazards

- 1) Water Hazards are either regular water hazards (yellow stakes/lines) or lateral water hazards (red stakes/lines).
- 2) You have three options for a regular water hazard. Play the ball as it lies, keep the line of the hole from where the ball last crossed the margin of the hazard, and go as far back as you wish, or play from where the previous stroke was made (stroke and distance).
- 3) For lateral water hazards, you have two additional options. Those are two club lengths from where the ball last crossed the margin of the lateral hazard, no nearer the hole, or go equidistant on the opposite side of the hazard, with two club lengths, no nearer the hole.
- 4) There is a one-stroke penalty for taking relief from a regular or lateral water hazard.

**d) Rule 27 Ball Lost or Out of Bounds/Provisional Ball**

- 1) If a ball is lost or out of bounds, the player must play another ball from where the previous stroke was made (stroke and distance).
- 2) If a player believes their ball is lost or out of bounds OUTSIDE a regular or lateral water hazard, the player may play a provisional ball to speed up play.
- 3) The provisional ball becomes the ball in play, if the player's ball is indeed out of bounds, or if it is not found during a five minute search (lost), or if a player plays the provisional ball from a point equal to or beyond where the original ball is likely to be.

**e) Rule 28 Ball unplayable**

- 1) A ball may be declared unplayable at any point on the course except if it is in a water hazard.
- 2) Declaring a ball unplayable is a one-stroke penalty and the player may proceed under the following options: First, a player may take relief of two club lengths from where the ball lay. Secondly, a player may keep the point where the ball lay in line with the hole, moving as far back as possible before dropping (similar to a water hazard relief option); or you may return to the spot where the previous stroke was made (stroke and distance).
- 3) When taking relief, be aware your best option may be stroke and distance. If taking two club length relief keeps you in a bind, you may declare that ball unplayable again, adding an additional stroke, and proceed with your options.
- 4) If a ball is declared unplayable in a bunker, the ball must be dropped in the bunker when using the options of two club length relief or keeping where you ball lay in line with the hole. You may also go back to where the previous stroke was made.

**Questions?**