



**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 (pages 143-144 of the current Rule book).

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**

*A ball lying on a "closely-mown area", through the green may be lifted, without penalty and cleaned. Before lifting the ball, the player must mark its position. Having cleaned the ball, he must replace it on a spot, within (specify area, e.g. six inches, one club length, etc) of and not nearer the hole than where it originally lay, that is not in a hazard and not on a putting green.*

*A player may place his ball only once and it is in play when it has been placed (Rule 20-4), If the ball fails to come to rest on the spot on which it is placed, Rule 20-3d, applies. If the ball when placed comes to rest on the spot on which it is placed and it subsequently moves, there is no penalty and the ball must be played as it lies, unless the provisions of any other Rule apply.*

*If the player fails to mark the position of the ball before lifting it or moves the ball in any other manner such as rolling it with a club, he incurs a penalty of one stroke.*

**Note:** *"Closely mown area" means any area of the course, including paths through the rough, cut to fairway height or less.*

**\*PENALTY FOR BREACH OF LOCAL RULE:**

**Match play-Loss of Hole; Stroke Play- Two strokes**

**\*If a player incurs the general penalty for a breach of this Local Rule, no additional penalty under the local Rule is applied.**



### 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 place only once and ball is in play irrespective of whether the marker has been removed or not as long as there is no breach of Rule 8 (Indicating Line of Play).
4. 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 13 (Ball Played as it lies).
5. There can be no limitation on the number of times the lie of the ball can be preferred during the play of a hole.
6. The lie of the ball may be preferred if the ball comes to rest on a closely mown area as a result of drop taken under Rules 24-2, 25-1.b,26-1,27,28
7. 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 (Rule 20-5)

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

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