



2024 Whitney Farms Men's Club Course Setup and Player's Guide



This Course Setup and Player's Guide is in effect as of April 1, 2024.

All WFMC tournaments shall be played in accordance with the current edition of the USGA Rules of Golf, except as specifically modified by any Local Rules outlined below. The format for each weekly tournament will be posted on the board located outside the pro shop along with the sign-in sheet. Any questions may be directed to the pro shop or a member of the Board.

Section A: LOCAL RULES

1. Alternative To Stroke-And-Distance Relief For A Ball That Is Lost Outside A Penalty Area Or Out Of Bounds

When a player's ball has not been found or is known or virtually certain to be out of bounds, the player may proceed as follows rather than proceeding under stroke and distance.

For two penalty strokes, the player may take relief by dropping the original ball or another ball in this relief area (see Rule 14.3):

Two Estimated Reference Points:

- a. Ball Reference Point: The point where the original ball is estimated to have:

Come to rest on the course, or

Last crossed the edge of the course boundary to go out of bounds.

- b. Fairway Reference Point: The point of fairway of the hole being played that is nearest to the ball reference point but is not nearer the hole than the ball reference point.

For purposes of this Local Rule, "fairway" means any area of grass in the general area that is cut to fairway height or less.

If a ball is estimated to be lost on the course or last crossed the edge of the course boundary short of the fairway, the fairway reference point may be a grass path or a teeing ground for the hole being played cut to fairway height or less.

Size of Relief Area Based on Reference Points:

Anywhere between:

A line from the hole through the ball reference point (and within two club-lengths to the outside of that line), and

A line from the hole through the fairway reference point (and within two club-lengths to the fairway side of that line).

But with these limits:

Limits on Location of Relief Area:

Must be in the general area, and

Must not be nearer the hole than the ball reference point.



Once the player puts a ball in play under this Local Rule:

The original ball that was lost or out of bounds is no longer in play and must not be played.

This is true even if the ball is found on the course before the end of the three-minute search time (See Rule 6.3b(2)).

But, **the player may not use this option** to take relief for the original ball when:

That ball is known or virtually certain to have come to rest in a penalty area, or

The player has played another ball provisionally under penalty of stroke and distance (see Rule 18.3).

A player may use this option to take relief for a provisional ball that has not been found or is known or virtually certain to be out of bounds.

2. Maximum Score Form of Stroke Play

For all WFMC stroke play events, a player's score for each hole is capped at a maximum score of 10.

A player who does not complete a hole (often referred to informally as "picking up") will not be disqualified from the tournament, but instead will simply get the maximum score of 10 for the hole.

3. Distance Measuring Devices

For all WFMC tournaments, a player may obtain distance information by use of a distance-measuring device. If, during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance-measuring device to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his play (e.g., elevation changes, wind speed, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 4-3.

4. Ground Under Repair

Areas defined by enclosed White Lines are Ground Under Repair from which players are entitled to relief without penalty. French Drains (trenches filled with exposed rock) are deemed to be Ground Under Repair.

5. Out of Bounds

Defined by the nearest inside edge of white stakes and all boundary fences. The driving range is considered Out of Bounds. The boundary of the driving range is defined by the nearest course side edges (the edges on the course side) of the posts at ground level. When a line on the ground defines the boundary edge for out of bounds, the line on the ground controls and the posts may be used to show approximately where the boundary edge is, but they have no other meaning.

6. Preferred Lies (Winter Rules)

In general, the WFMC shall play Winter Rules from the start of the golf season until the weekend before Memorial Day and from the last weekend in September until the end of the season. From Memorial Day weekend through the last weekend in September, the ball must be played as it lies except as otherwise provided in the Rules of Golf. However, the Executive Board may change these general rules based on course and weather conditions during the year. Any changes will be posted during the sign up of a given tournament.



The following Local Rule is in effect during the time period specified above when Winter Rules are applicable:

A ball lying on a closely-mown area through the green of the hole being played may be lifted without penalty and cleaned. Before lifting the ball, the player must mark its position. Having lifted the ball, he must place it on a spot within twelve inches 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 14). If the ball fails to come to rest on the spot on which it was placed, Rule 14.2e 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, moves the ball-marker prior to putting the ball back into play 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.

7. Roads and Paths

Improved roads, paths and their extensions are deemed to be obstructions whether or not they are artificially surfaced.

8. Tournament Tees

Unless otherwise indicated on the tournament sign-up sheet, players have the choice of playing from the Blue, White, Green (if qualify), Green/Gold Combo (if qualify) or Gold (if qualify) tees. To play from the Green Tees, either (i) you must be at least 70 years old (no Handicap Index requirement), OR (ii) your Handicap Index must be 15.0 or higher AND your age plus Handicap Index must be 75 or more. To play from the Green/Gold Combo Tees, you must be at least 70 years old AND your age plus Handicap Index must be 86 or more. To play from the Gold Tees, you must be at least 75 years old. Women may play from the women's tees. You do NOT have to play from the same tees each day for Sunday reentry.

9. Penalty Areas

All penalty areas will be defined by yellow stakes and/or lines or red stakes and/or lines. In the case where both stakes and lines are present, the lines will serve as the boundary of the penalty area. A ball drop area is available on Hole #15 as follows:

a) **Hole #15:** If a ball is in or it is known or virtually certain that a ball that has not been found is in the penalty area in front of the green on Hole #15, the player may:

- (i) proceed under Rule 17.1d; or
- (ii) as an additional option, drop a ball, under penalty of one stroke, in the dropping zone.



Section B: General Course Setup

The following is provided for information purposes only. The Rules of Golf, as modified by any Local Rules provided above, shall apply in all situations.

Cart Paths: If a cart path interferes with the lie of the ball, a player's stance or a player's swing, the player may lift and drop it, without penalty, within one club length of and not nearer the hole than the nearest point of relief.

Drainage Ditches: If a drainage ditch (French drain) interferes with the lie of the ball, a player's stance or a player's swing, the player may lift and drop it, without penalty, within one club length of and not nearer the hole than the nearest point of relief.

Driving Range: Any ball inside the driving range is out-of-bounds. Stroke and distance penalty pursuant to USGA Rule 18 or Alternative To Stroke-And-Distance Relief For A Ball That Is Out Of Bounds applies. The boundary of the driving range is defined by the nearest course side edges (the edges on the course side) of the netting poles at ground level. If there is a white line on the ground defining the boundary edge for out of bounds, the white line controls, and the poles are used to show approximately where the boundary edge is, but they have no other meaning.

No Free Relief from Fences/Nets Defining Out-of-Bounds or Located Out-of-Bounds: Objects defining out of bounds and immovable objects situated out of bounds are not obstructions, and the Rules provide no relief without penalty for any interference from such objects. Accordingly, for the fences and netting that define out of bounds or are situated out of bounds on holes 3, 4, 7, and 18, if a ball is in bounds and a player's stance or the area of his intended swing is interfered with by the fence or netting, no free relief is available. The ball must be played as it lies, or relief may be taken under Rule 19 (Unplayable Ball).

Red, Yellow and White Stakes: If a player's ball is not in a penalty area and a red or yellow penalty area stake interferes with the player's stance or swing, the ball may be lifted and dropped, without penalty within one club length of and not nearer the hole than the nearest point of relief (if ball is in the penalty area, no relief from the stakes is allowed). White stakes defining out of bounds are not obstructions, so no free relief is allowed. When the edge of a penalty area is defined by painted lines or by physical features, stakes may be used to show where the penalty area is, but they have no other meaning. When a line on the ground defines the boundary edge for out of bounds, stakes may be used to show where the boundary edge is, but they have no other meaning.

Yardage Markers, Sprinkler Heads and Control Boxes: If the lie of the ball, a player's stance or a player's swing is interfered with by a yardage marker, sprinkler head or control box, the ball may be lifted and dropped, without penalty, within one club length of and not nearer the hole than the nearest point of relief. There is no free relief for interference to a player's line of play. There is no free relief from previously used 150-yard bushes/stumps.



Section C: PLAYER'S GUIDE

The following is intended to provide guidance in selected situations that may be encountered on each hole. The Rules of Golf, as amended by any Local Rules provided above, shall apply in all situations.

Hole #1	<p>Cart path on right side is out of bounds. Stroke and distance penalty pursuant to USGA Rule 18 or Alternative to Stroke-And-Distance Relief for A Ball That Is Out of Bounds applies.</p> <p>Marsh area on the right side past the out-of-bounds markers, and next to and behind green: Penalty area as defined by red stakes.</p> <p>French drain on left side by cart path: if the French drain interferes with the lie of the ball, a player's stance or the area of his intended swing, the ball may be lifted and dropped, without penalty, within one club length of and not nearer the hole than the nearest point of relief.</p>
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Hole #2	<p>Pond on right side off tee: Penalty area as defined by red stakes.</p> <p>Woods on left of fairway between 2nd hole and 16th hole – if ball is not found, it is a lost ball. Stroke and distance penalty pursuant to USGA Rule 18 or Alternative to Stroke-And-Distance Relief for A Ball That Is Lost Outside a Penalty Area applies.</p> <p>Drainage pipe and pond on left side of fairway by cart path: Penalty area as defined by red stakes.</p> <p>Right side after end of pond (near where cart path crosses fairway) up to green is out of bounds as marked. Stroke and distance penalty pursuant to USGA Rule 18 or Alternative to Stroke-And-Distance Relief for A Ball That Is Out of Bounds applies.</p>
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Hole #3	<p>Right side of hole from tee to green is out of bounds as marked. Stroke and distance penalty pursuant to USGA Rule 18 or Alternative to Stroke-And-Distance Relief for A Ball That Is Out of Bounds applies.</p> <p>Right side tee shot, to the right of cart path (in bounds), play it as it lies, unless there is interference with the lie of the ball, a player's stance or the area of his intended swing by the French drain, in which case the ball may be lifted and dropped, without penalty, within one club length of and not nearer the hole than the nearest point of relief.</p> <p>If ball is in bounds and the player's stance or the area of his intended swing is interfered with by the fence on right side: No free relief is allowed, ball must be played as it lies, or relief may be taken under Rule 19 (Unplayable Ball).</p> <p>Water on left side of hole and behind green: penalty area as defined by red stakes.</p> <p>Left side bulkhead wall on tee shot: if ball is not in the penalty area and a player's stance or area of intended swing is interfered with by the wall, the ball may be lifted and dropped, without penalty, within one-club length of and not nearer the hole than the nearest point of relief.</p>
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	<p>Hole #3 continued:</p> <p>Interference by pump house: Pump house is considered an immovable obstruction. If ball is in the penalty area, under USGA Rule 16-a(2), there is no relief from the pump house - Player must proceed under USGA Rule 17 (Penalty Areas). If ball is not in the penalty area and a player's stance or area of intended swing is interfered with by the pump house, the ball may be lifted and dropped, without penalty, within one-club length of and not nearer the hole than the nearest point of relief. No relief for interference with line of play.</p> <p>French drain that crosses the fairway approximately 100 yards from the green: if the French drain interferes with the lie of the ball, a player's stance or the area of his intended swing, the ball may be lifted and dropped, without penalty, within one club length of and not nearer the hole than the nearest point of relief.</p> <p>Bulkhead wall behind green: if ball is not in the penalty area and a player's stance or area of intended swing is interfered with by the wall, the ball may be lifted and dropped, without penalty, within one club length of and not nearer the hole than the nearest point of relief.</p>
Hole #4	<p>Left side from tee to green: Penalty area as defined by red stakes.</p> <p>Right side is out of bounds as marked. Stroke and distance penalty pursuant to USGA Rule 27-1b or Alternative to Stroke-And-Distance Relief for A Ball That Is Out of Bounds applies.</p>
Hole #5	<p>Left side from tee to green is out of bounds as marked. Stroke and distance penalty pursuant to USGA Rule 27-1b or Alternative to Stroke-And-Distance Relief for A Ball That Is Out of Bounds applies.</p> <p>Right side from tee to green: Penalty area as defined by red stakes.</p>
Hole #6	<p>Left side from tee to green: Penalty area as defined by red stakes.</p> <p>Right side from tee to past the top of hill – Out of bounds as marked up to penalty area. Stroke and distance penalty pursuant to USGA Rule 18 or Alternative to Stroke-And-Distance Relief for A Ball That Is Out of Bounds applies.</p> <p>Right side from past top of hill (past the out of bounds) to green: Penalty area as defined by red line/stakes.</p> <p>Road behind green: Out of bounds. Stroke and distance penalty pursuant to USGA Rule 18 or Alternative to Stroke-And-Distance Relief for A Ball That Is Out of Bounds applies.</p>
Hole #7	<p>Left side from tee to green: penalty area as defined by red stakes.</p> <p>Right side from tee to green: penalty area as defined by red stakes.</p> <p>Fence on right side by green defines out of bounds. If ball is in bounds and the player's stance or the area of his intended swing is interfered with by the fence: No free relief is available, ball must be played as it lies, or relief may be taken under Rule 19 (Ball Unplayable).</p>



Hole #8	<p>Left side – out of bounds as marked up to penalty area. Stroke and distance penalty pursuant to USGA Rule 18 or Alternative to Stroke-And-Distance Relief for A Ball That Is Out of Bounds applies.</p> <p>Left side by green: penalty area as defined by red stakes.</p> <p>Right side –out of bounds as marked. Stroke and distance penalty pursuant to USGA Rule 18 or Alternative to Stroke-And-Distance Relief for A Ball That Is Out of Bounds applies.</p> <p>Road behind green is out of bounds as marked. Stroke and distance penalty pursuant to USGA Rule 18 or Alternative to Stroke-And-Distance Relief for A Ball That Is Out of Bounds applies.</p>
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Hole #9	<p>Road left and parking lot right and behind green is out of bounds as marked. Stroke and distance penalty pursuant to USGA Rule 18 or Alternative to Stroke-And-Distance Relief for A Ball That Is Out of Bounds applies.</p> <p>Brook in front of tee: penalty area as defined by yellow stakes.</p>
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Hole #10	<p>Left side from tee to green: penalty area as defined by red stakes.</p> <p>Right side between 10th and 18th fairway: penalty area as defined by red stakes.</p> <p>Right side of fairway up to and next to green: penalty area as defined by red stakes.</p>
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Hole #11	<p>Woods to right of tee boxes: penalty area as defined by red stakes.</p> <p>Property line to the left of the brook/drainage ditch is out of bounds as marked by white posts from middle tee boxes for approximately 200-220 yards to last out of bounds marker (painted half white/half red). Stroke and distance penalty pursuant to USGA Rule 18 or Alternative to Stroke-And-Distance Relief for A Ball That Is Out of Bounds applies.</p> <p>Provided your ball is not out of bounds, the brook/drainage ditch and area between the brook/drainage ditch and out of bounds from tee to end of the out of bounds area: penalty area as defined by red stakes.</p> <p>Brook/drainage ditch and woods to left of fairway from last out of bounds marker (painted half white/half red) to area where cart path crosses fairway: penalty area as defined by red stakes.</p> <p>Woods to left of fairway from area where cart path crosses fairway up to and next to green: penalty area as defined by red stakes.</p> <p>Woods to right of fairway from fairway bunker (by 18th tee box) to green and behind green: penalty area as defined by red stakes.</p>
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Hole #12	<p>Brook on left and behind green: penalty area as defined by red stakes.</p> <p>Rope fence to left of and behind green is an immovable obstruction. If ball is not in penalty area and the player's stance or the area of his intended swing is interfered with by the rope fence, the ball may be lifted and dropped, without penalty, within one club length of and not nearer the hole than the nearest point of relief.</p>
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Hole #13	<p>French drain at bottom of hill (pile of large rocks) by cart path: if the French drain interferes with the lie of the ball, a player's stance or the area of his intended swing, the ball may be lifted and dropped, without penalty, within one club length of and not nearer the hole than the nearest point of relief.</p> <p>French drain on left near dogleg inside corner: if the French Drain interferes with the lie of the ball, a player's stance or a player's swing, the ball may be lifted and dropped, without penalty, within one club length of and not nearer the hole than the nearest point of relief.</p> <p>Right side of fairway to from tee to green: penalty area as defined by red stakes.</p> <p>Woods on left side of fairway from tee to green: penalty area as defined by red stakes.</p>
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Hole #14	<p>Pond and marsh to right of fairway: penalty area as defined by red stakes.</p> <p>Woods to left side of fairway: penalty area as defined by red stakes.</p> <p>Wooded area to right side near the green: penalty area as defined by red stakes.</p>
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Hole #15	<p>Pond in front of green: penalty area as defined by yellow stakes. Ball may be dropped and played from drop area.</p> <p>Water behind and to right of green: penalty area as defined by red stakes.</p>
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Hole #16	<p>Pond in front of tee box: penalty area as defined by yellow stakes.</p> <p>Woods on right between 16th hole and 14th hole (adjacent forward tee box and before opening to 14th hole): penalty area as defined by red stakes.</p> <p>Brook/marsh on right side of fairway (past opening to 14th hole) to green: penalty area as defined by red stakes.</p> <p>Woods on left of fairway between 16th hole and 2nd hole – if ball is not found, it is a lost ball. Stroke and distance penalty pursuant to USGA Rule 18 or Alternative to Stroke-And-Distance Relief for A Ball That Is Lost Outside a Penalty Area applies.</p>
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Hole #17	<p>Right side from tee to green: penalty area as defined by red stakes.</p> <p>Ball in driving range is out of bounds. If ball is in bounds and there is interference with a player's stance or the area of his intended swing by the driving range fence or poles: no free relief is available, ball must be played as it lies, or relief may be taken under Rule 19 (Unplayable Ball).</p> <p>John's Creek in front of green: penalty area as defined by red stakes</p>
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Hole #18	<p>Pond in front of tee boxes: penalty area as defined by yellow stakes.</p> <p>Marsh/brook on right between 18th and 10th holes: penalty area as defined by red stakes.</p> <p>Ball in driving range is out of bounds. If ball is in bounds and there is interference with a player's stance or the area of his intended swing by the driving range fence and poles (excluding guy wires): no free relief is available, ball must be played as it lies, or relief may be taken under Rule 28 (Ball Unplayable).</p> <p>If the ball is in bounds and a player's stance or the area of his intended swing is interfered with by the guy wires that are in bounds, the ball may be lifted and dropped, without penalty, within one club length of and not nearer the hole than the nearest point of relief.</p> <p>Driveway behind green, driving range left of green: out of bounds. Stroke and distance penalty pursuant to USGA Rule 18 or Alternative to Stroke-And-Distance Relief for A Ball That Is Out of Bounds applies.</p>
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