

## **Winter Rules.**

Once the club deem us to be playing under “Winter Rules” you may take the following actions on the Fairway or Closely Mown Area. You may mark, clean and replace your ball within 6” of its original position NOT nearer the hole. No penalty is incurred. Failure to mark the ball incurs a one shot penalty. This rule only applies to “closely mown areas” i.e. fairways and any areas where the grass is cut to fairway height, including paths through the rough. It does not include the rough, the putting green or any hazards etc. However, note that on par 3 holes although there is no fairway you are permitted to pick and place on the apron of the green; that is the band of first cut grass surrounding the green.

## **Rough Areas:**

On all rough areas you just play the ball as it lies unless it is deemed to be plugged

## **Plugged Balls:**

A ball is deemed to be plugged if it is embedded in its own pitch mark. If your ball is plugged you can mark, clean and drop it as close as possible to its original position, no nearer the hole. This can be done anywhere that is “through the green”, that is “the whole area of the course except all hazards and the tee ground and green of the hole being played”.

You must ensure that your ball is really plugged and does not just had a bit of mud on it, or is covered in grass but not embedded in the mud.... If in doubt consult your playing partners.

## **Water in the Bunkers:**

If you ball lands in a bunker and rolls into the water, or your stance is affected by water you can pick, clean and drop the ball on a dry area with no penalty incurred. However please note the drop zone must be still in the hazard and not nearer the hole and must be the nearest point of relief. If the bunker is full of water and you cannot drop inside the hazard then you must drop outside the bunker, at the nearest point of relief but this drop incurs a one penalty shot.

## **Fairway Mats**

In certain course conditions SWGC may mandate the use of mats to protect fairways from damage and indeed may extend the compulsory use of mats to the rough and to certain teeing areas. Under these circumstances any senior wishing to participate in a roll up must use a mat and comply with those SWGC instructions.

At other times the Seniors committee may, by prior notification, allow mats to be used for some or all Seniors Roll-up competitions. Mats may only be used on parts of the course specified by the Seniors committee. This will always include areas cut to fairway height or less (closely mown areas) and exceptionally may extend to the rough. The use of mats in these roll-up competitions is recommended but not compulsory.

## **Correct Procedure When Using a Mat**

The player must lift their ball, place the mat as near as possible to the original spot, place the ball on the mat, and play from there. The ball can be cleaned when lifted.

No Putter: The mat must not be used for strokes made with a putter.

## **Mat Design**

The mats used must be plain and cannot have lines or other features that would be considered a training aid to assist with alignment. Any commercially available fairway mat that meets these criteria can be used