



DCSGC Winter Rules (2026)

Revised 1/23/26

The idea here is that as balls are likely to either end up in poor, muddy lies or accumulate a lot of mud as they roll out, the adoption of winter rules or preferred lies is a Local or Club Rule that would allow you to play your next shot from something closer to the lie you would probably have enjoyed during the rest of the year.

Lift, Clean and Place: (Preferred Lies)

Winter rules would allow you to lift, clean and place your ball within six inches of where it has come to rest, no closer to the hole. The ball must be marked (with a tee, for example) before being lifted. While this generally is limited to the fairway, DCSGC players can use it in the rough too although it is usually not allowed in the rough areas. There is no penalty for this, and is essentially the same as our 6" Bump Local Rule allowed all year.

Standing water:

You can lift, clean and move a ball out of standing water in the fairway or rough. Choose the nearest point of relief no closer to the hole. This can be 6" or 15 feet, whatever is necessary. Note: in this case you do not need to mark it, as you might need a rake or club to fetch the ball.

- In a bunker: you can move a ball from standing water in a bunker, but your relief area must be still in the bunker. If the only relief is closer to the hole, that is permissible.

- On the green: if standing water is between your ball and the hole you can move your ball to the nearest point of relief on the green. Again, distance is not limited.

Note: this applies not only if your ball is in the water, but if your stance (shoes) would be in water too. If water seeps up from the ground around your shoes you can take this relief too.

Embedded Ball:

You can take relief from an embedded ball almost anywhere on the course, following the same 6" procedure as "Lift, Clean and Place".

Note: This does not apply in a bunker!

Abnormal Conditions:

You get free relief from "abnormal conditions" such as:

- Indentations or Tracks from grass mowers
- Ground under repair (designated by white lines, flags or ropes by the Course personnel)

This applies if the obstruction interferes with the players stance or swing area/path. Please do not move or remove any course markers or indicators.

For additional information you can watch this 5 minute video:

[YouTube-WinterRules-and-how-to-use-them](#)

Consider the Course Conditions as you play:

Please remember that rain and other Winter conditions can cause the course to much more susceptible to damage, especially with soft or muddy soil. Be careful to keep carts on the path and walk in firmer areas to avoid damaging the course. Don't create footprints or cart wheel marks on the course as this will affect play later in the year. Be considerate and replace divots and repair ball marks.