



## DCSGC Modified Local Rules

Revised 1/23/26

Per the USGA, a Club can adopt “Modified Local Rules” to account for Club or Golf Course specific conditions to the Rules of Golf. The intention is to maintain course and scoring integrity, but allow room for exceptions.

The complete (and rather long!) list of Modified Local Rules (MLR) are available in the following link. <https://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/rules-hub/clarifications-of-the-rules-of-golf.html>

The Diablo Creek Seniors Golf Club has approved and adopted the USGA’s MLR’s. Some of the more common ones are explained below. In addition we have also adopted and will allow other DCSGC specific Local Rules for our own safety and the pace of play.

### **Modified Local Rule: Winter Rules**

A separate document details the DCSGC “Winter Rules”, which covers conditions such as standing water and embedded balls. It is effect typically only in the Winter months. The Rules Director will notify the membership via email when it starts (around November) and ends (typically April).

### **Modified Local Rule “6 inch bump”**

The DCSGC has adopted a “6 inch Bump” Local Rule, that allows any player to move a ball (including improving a lie) up to 6 inches. While this does apply in the fairway and the rough, it does not apply on the green, or bunker or in any penalty area.

### **Modified Local Rule “Root Relief”**

The DCSGC has adopted a “Root Relief” Local Rule, that allows any player to move a ball (including improving a lie) if there is a tree root in the swing path. This is to protect our senior muscles and bones from potential injury. The relief distance is not limited, but should be the nearest point of relief (hopefully inches) and no closer to the hole.

### **Modified Local Rule “Out of Bounds, alternative to Stroke and Distance”**

Per the Rule of Golf if a player thinks that a ball may have been hit out of bounds, he may elect to hit a provisional. If he doesn’t hit a provisional and the ball is lost or out of bounds, he can elect to drop and play another ball in the *fairway* across from the OB entry point. The penalty is 2 strokes.

### **Modified Local Rule “Unplayable ball in a bunker”**

If a player hits into a bunker and for any reason considers it “unplayable”, the player has an extra option allowing relief outside the bunker using the back-on-the-line procedure, but for a total of two penalty strokes.

### **Modified Local Rule “Removing stones in a bunker”**

Although normally not allowed, you may remove a stone or pebble in a bunker if it is in the path of a stroke, but not a leaf or stick. This is for safety reasons. (Man made objects are allowed to be removed per the Rules of Golf.)

