

The Golf Rules Review

An Intermittent Communique by the WWGA Golf Rules Maven

Issue XXII

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New Drop Zone on SL#9 now conforms with USGA Requirements

For those of you that read the recent issue from June 4th, I wrote:

“The drop areas on holes MV#3 and #9 and SL#9 do not conform to USGA standards because they take the water hazard completely out of play and are significantly closer to the hole. Their sole purpose is to speed up play. They are “illegal”, which is why their use is not allowed in our tournaments. If you use them, you are not playing according to USGA rules. Therefore, your actual score is invalid for GHIN. So the only score you can record in GHIN is par plus your handicap strokes.

I am amending the last issue so that the above only applies to Mountain View holes #3 and #9, not Stony Lick #9.

Why doesn't this apply to Stony Lick Hole #9?

The Golf Rules Maven approached the Director of Golf- Ron Springer and requested to have the drop zone on Stony Lick #9 moved to the left side of the water hazard, slightly ahead of where the hazard starts, as shown in the photo. With this new drop zone, you still have to hit the ball over the water and the distance is not significantly shorter than if you dropped two club length behind the water hazard. This makes this drop zone conform to USGA rules and it can be used in tournaments.

The perspective of the photo makes the drop zone look bigger and closer than it actually is. As drop zone gets used, it may need to shift back a bit to allow the grass near the front of the zone to recover. However, this is about as close as it will get to the green. When you see the markings start to fade, let Ron Springer know and he will re-mark them. He will also request to have the area mowed to fairway height.



What does this mean for you if you play Stony Lick?

1. You can go to the new drop zone after you hit one ball in the water. So go for the pin...try to get over on your first try. If you don't, then head over to the drop zone. If it was your second shot that went into the water, you will be laying 3 (including the penalty shot) and hitting your 4th shot from the drop zone.
2. At the drop zone you have 2 options.
 - a. Try to hit over the water again. If you go in the water again, you will need to hit again from the drop zone.
 - b. Or play alongside the water until you get to the point where you are even with the green and then hit over the small creek to the green.
3. You no longer have to hit 2 balls in the water to go to the drop zone. The old drop zone is gone.
4. If you use the new drop zone you can record your actual score for the hole in GHIN up to your maximum score (note: GHIN will adjust your score to your maximum if you enter your score hole by hole)
5. This new drop zone can be used in all tournaments!