

Winter Rule # 2 - Lost Ball (Leaf Rule) (Ref: Decisions on The Rules of Golf 33-8/31)

1. A player may substitute another ball, without penalty, within one club length for a ball lost in tree leaves “through the green” in the fairway or the rough that is normally mowed by the maintenance personnel.
2. A ball lost between the tree line and Out of Bounds marker or roads, paved or unpaved, will be treated as a lateral hazard with the resultant one stroke penalty and normal lateral hazard relief.

The tree line is defined, as the line of trees on the fairway side ahead and behind the location of the lost ball.
THIS WINTER RULE IS NOT INTENDED TO PROVIDE RELIEF FROM TREE INTERFERENCE, ONLY TO PROVIDE RELIEF FOR BALL LOST IN LEAVES.

Winter Rule # 3 - Time Rule for Lost Ball or Ball Out of Bounds (Ref: USGA Rule 27)

Rule 27 is modified to only allow three (3) minutes instead of five (5) minutes to find a lost ball. Weather conditions dictate faster play in the winter.

Winter Rule # 4 - Casual Water or Snow in a Bunker (Ref: USGA Rule 25-1)

1. If a player’s ball is in casual water, or on ice or snow (casual water) or on leaves (loose impediments) in a bunker, rule 25-1.b (ii) applies. In essence, this rule states that a player may lift the ball and drop it:
 - (a) without penalty, at the nearest point of relief in the bunker, or if complete relief is impossible, as near as possible to the spot where the ball lay, but not nearer the hole, on a part of the course, in the bunker, that affords maximum available relief from the condition; or
 - (b) under penalty of one stroke, outside the bunker, keeping the point where the ball lay directly between the hole and the spot on which the ball is dropped, with no limit to how far behind the bunker the ball may be dropped.
2. When a bunker is completely covered by casual water, (Ref: Decisions on the Rules of Golf Rule 25-1b/8) **“Player’s option when bunker is completely covered by casual water”** applies.
 - a.) Play the ball as it lies, or
 - b) Proceed under Winter Rule #4, 1(a), or 1(b), above.