**LOCAL RULES FOR DORSET GOLF CLUB COMPETITIONS**

 **(To be read in conjunction with the R&A Rules of Golf)**

**Effective: Thursday 4 January 2024**

1. BALL LOST OR OUT OF BOUNDS – STROKE AND DISTANCE MUST BE TAKEN (Rule 18 (2) (2a) (2b)

(a) Defined by boundary fences and all other areas by white stakes with black tops.

(b) The white posts with black tops on the Left of the 1st & 5th fairways, defining the Green Keepers area, mark O.O.B.

(c) Protective Netting on the left of the 13th fairway marked as O.O.B.

2. ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITIONS – Includes Immovable Obstructions (Rule 16-1)

(a) Protective Netting on the Left of the 3rd fairway, 4th fairway and on the Right of the 9th tee. When the ball is behind the netting, relief must be taken. Relief may be taken when interfering with stance or swing. Protective Netting on the Right of the 8th tee, relief may be taken when interfering with stance or swing.

(b) No Garden Areas of the Dorset Golf Course are considered Garden Beds, irrespective of any area(s) bordered with rocks, sleepers, concrete or rope.

(c) Sprinkler Heads in the line of play, within 2 club lengths of the Putting Green and within 2 club lengths of the ball.

(d) All Earthworks, in the General Area, are GUR, relief must be taken.

(e) All Roads and Paths, relief may be taken.

(f) Embedded Stones and Drainage Ditch, in the General Area, relief may be taken.

(g) Spare hole covers on the Putting Green.

(h) Small Trees and Shrubs (must have been planted) under 2 club lengths high, relief must be taken

3. MOVEABLE OBSTRUCTIONS (Rule 15-2)

 Hoops & Ropes (Please ensure they are replaced)

4. PENALTY AREA (Rule 17-1)

The Penalty Area & No Play Zone near 11th Green and 12th tee (defined by Yellow/Black striped stakes) is a prohibited area and must be treated as a Red Penalty area from the 11th tee and as a Yellow Penalty area from the 12th tee. If your ball lies inside the No Play Zone you must take a penalty drop.

5. 12th Hole Teeing Area - Male Members:

1) ALL MALE MEMBERS MUST play from the current tee area, within the width of the Blue Discs, in all Club competitions.

2) In the event that your ball lands in the hazard in front of the tee box, as defined by the yellow and black staked area, then the player can either:

(a) choose to re-hit from the tee area or:

(b) drop a ball in the drop zone, which is defined between the yellow bricks on the Ladies teeing area, to the left of the hazard.

3) A player choosing to play from within the drop zone will be playing their 3rd (third) shot. The ball is to be dropped, not teed-up, in line with the Rules of golf,

4) ALL male members have these options. It is not age related.

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