Course Marking and Set-Up
Why mark a golf course?

• Helps golfers play by the Rules

• Speeds up play by eliminating confusion about ground under repair, hazards or out of bounds

• For competition purposes, ensures the competition is equitable
Out of Bounds

Carolinas Golf Association
Out of Bounds

It is suggested that boundary stakes be situated about 15 - 20 yards apart.

White stakes.

They must be closer than that if it is necessary to sight from one stake to the next without bushes, trees or anything else intervening.

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Out of Bounds

It is important to make clear where a boundary begins and ends. Tie-off out-of-bounds stakes by placing two stakes close together (as pictured).

O.B. stakes are recommended to be 30” to 36” in height.

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Out of Bounds

A boundary can be defined by means other than white stakes.

A fence along the perimeter of a course might define out of bounds or a white line.

The inside edge of the fence posts defines the margin and the line itself is O.B. (*definition: Out of Bounds*)
Out of Bounds

It is a common misconception that it is not proper to define as out of bounds an area within a course.

The CGA & USGA often marks as out of bounds areas such as parking lots, clubhouses, maintenance areas, tennis courts, practice areas, etc.

Parking Lot at Baltusrol

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Q. A public road defined as out of bounds divides a course. A ball crosses the road and comes to rest on the part of the course on the other side of the road. Is the ball out of bounds?

A. No. Since the ball lies on the course, it is in bounds unless a Local Rule provides otherwise. However, because it is unfair that a ball on the road is out of bounds and a ball beyond it is in bounds, it is suggested that the following Local Rule should be adopted:

“A ball which crosses a public road defined as out of bounds and comes to rest beyond that road is out of bounds, even though it may lie on another part of the course.”
Water Hazards
(Including Lateral Water Hazards)

Carolinas Golf Association
Water Hazards

Wooden one-inch stakes about 18 inches in length serve satisfactorily as water hazard or lateral water hazard stakes.

If lines are to be applied, a paint gun designed to apply painted lines on grass can be obtained.

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Water Hazards

If both lines and stakes are present,
  – lines define and
  – stakes identify the hazard.

The *Notice to Players* should make it clear that the line, not the stakes, defines the hazard margin.

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Water Hazards

Stakes or lines should be placed where the ground breaks down to form the depression containing the water.

Carolinas Golf Association
Water Hazards

If there is a bush or tree just outside the natural margin of a lateral water hazard, it is suggested that the bush or tree be included in the hazard.
Water Hazards

When only stakes are used, since the line from stake to stake determines the limit of the hazard, care must be used to ensure that no area which should be within the hazard lies outside the line.

Carolinas Golf Association
Water Hazards

If a body of water is part water hazard and part lateral water hazard, a yellow stake and a red stake should be placed together at the spot where the change takes place.
33-2a/10 How to Mark Island Green

A putting green is situated on an island in a lake. The water between the tee and the green is defined as a water hazard. The water on each side is marked as a lateral water hazard. How should the water behind the island be marked?

#17, TPC at Sawgrass

Carolinas Golf Association
33-2a/10 How to Mark Island Green

The Committee would be justified in marking the water behind the island as a lateral water hazard.

Alternatively, the Committee might consider defining the entire lake as a water hazard, establishing a Ball Drop (or Dropping Zone) and adopting a Local Rule giving a player whose ball lies in the hazard the option of dropping a ball in the Ball Drop, under penalty of one stroke.

#17, Sawgrass
Ball Drops

When it is difficult to proceed under the relief procedure prescribed by a Rule, Ball Drops are frequently used, particularly in the case of water hazards.

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The Local Rule states that the player may (not must) use the Ball Drop. A player should not be deprived of the options provided by the Rules. Thus, the use of any Ball Drop should be optional.
Ball Drops

Ball Drop Situations:
- Dropped ball comes to rest outside drop area.
- Dropped ball rolls forward of spot where first struck a part of the course.
How to Mark Water Hazard Bulkheads

Options:

- The Committee can mark bulkheads on the golf course side of the hazard

Carolinas Golf Association
How to Mark Water Hazard Bulkheads

- The Committee can mark bulkheads on the golf course side of the hazard, or on the bulkhead itself (not recommended, leaves permanent paint marks)
How to Mark Water Hazard Bulkheads

- The Committee can mark bulkheads on the golf course side of the hazard, the bulkhead itself or state that the waterside edge of the bulkhead defines the margin (no need for marking with paint)

Carolinas Golf Association
Water Hazards

If a cart path is adjacent to a water hazard, the Committee would be justified in marking the margin of the water hazard adjacent to the cart path.

Carolinas Golf Association
Ground Under Repair
Definition -- Ground Under Repair

Ground under repair is any portion of the course so marked by order of the Committee or so declared by its authorized representative. It includes material piled for removal and a hole made by a greenkeeper, even if not so marked.
Definition -- Ground Under Repair

**Note 1:** Grass cuttings and other material left on the course which have been abandoned and are not intended to be removed are not ground under repair unless so marked.
Definition -- Ground Under Repair

**Note 2:** The Committee may make a Local Rule prohibiting play from ground under repair or an environmentally-sensitive area which has been defined as ground under repair.

Mandatory GUR with Orange paint

Treat flower bed as part of cart path
Ground Under Repair

The entire course should be gone over thoroughly before any GUR areas are marked because the Committee’s conception of what should be marked might be different after a tour of the course than before.

It is recommended that ground under repair be defined with white lines, using a paint gun.
In general, bare areas in the rough are not marked as ground under repair, unless the areas are rutted.

Such areas in the fairway are generally marked as ground under repair.
What is the status under the Rules of tree wells or tree basins?

There is no relief under the Rules from tree basins which are not made of artificial materials.

If a tree basin has an artificial wall, the wall is an obstruction unless the Committee deems it to be an integral part of the course under Rule 33-2a.
Mulch Areas

How about Mulch Areas?

Most tournaments and clubs define mulch areas as “through the green”. (no free relief)

Carolinas Golf Association
Obstructions and Integral Parts of the Course

Carolinas Golf Association
Obstructions and Integral Parts of the Course

Although most obstructions are self-evident, it is sometimes advisable to identify certain items as obstructions in order to clarify matters for players who are not entirely familiar with the Rules.
Obstructions and Integral Parts of the Course

The Committee has authority to declare any construction to be an integral part of the course and thus not an obstruction.

Lightning rod (cable) on tree

Carolinas Golf Association
Obstructions and Integral Parts of the Course

If an artificially-surfaced road or path runs parallel to and is so close to a boundary fence that a player would incidentally get relief from interference by the boundary fence in taking relief from the road or path, it is recommended that consideration be given to declaring that section of the road or path to be an integral part of the course.
If a wire fence is erected to protect players on the tee of one hole from errant shots played at another hole, and it is relatively close to the line of play of the other hole, it would be permissible to make a Local Rule allowing a player whose ball is in such a position that the fence intervenes on his line of play to drop the ball, without penalty, not nearer the hole in a specified Ball Drop (or Dropping Zone).

Michael Dann in 1978??
Temporary Immovable Obstructions  
(Appendix I, Part B, Section 6)

Definition
A temporary immovable obstruction is a non-permanent artificial object which is often erected in conjunction with a competition and which is fixed or not readily movable.
Temporary Immovable Obstructions
(Appendix I, Part B, Section 6)

Examples of temporary immovable obstructions include, but are not limited to tents, scoreboards, grandstands and greenside fans.

Supporting guy wires are part of the temporary immovable obstruction unless the Committee declares that they are to be treated as elevated power lines or cables.

Carolinas Golf Association
Temporary Immovable Obstructions
(Appendix I, Part B, Section 6)

Interference

Interference occurs when

(a) the ball lies in front of and so close to the obstruction that the obstruction interferes with the player’s stance or the area of his intended swing, or

(b) the ball lies in, on, under or behind the obstruction so that any part of the obstruction intervenes directly between the player’s ball and the hole; interference also exists if the ball lies within one club-length of a spot where such intervention would exist.

Note: A ball is under a temporary immovable obstruction when it is below the outermost edges of the obstruction, even if these edges do not extend downward to the ground.

Carolinas Golf Association
Temporary Immovable Obstructions
(Appendix I, Part B, Section 6)

Relief
(a) Through the Green: If the ball lies through the green, the point on the course nearest to where the ball lies shall be determined which
(a) is not nearer the hole,
(b) avoids interference as defined in Clause 2 and
(c) is not in a hazard or on a putting green. The player shall lift the ball and drop it without penalty within one club-length of the point thus determined on a part of the course which fulfills (a), (b) and (c) above.
Through the Green: If the ball lies through the green, the point on the course nearest to where the ball lies shall be determined which:

(a) is not nearer the hole,

(b) avoids interference as defined in Clause 2 and

(c) is not in a hazard or on a putting green.

The player shall lift the ball and drop it without penalty within one club-length of the point thus determined on a part of the course which fulfills (a), (b) and (c) above.
Temporary Immovable Obstructions
(Appendix I, Part B, Section 6)

Relief

In a Hazard: If the ball is in a hazard, the player shall lift and drop the ball either:

(i) Without penalty, in the hazard, on the nearest part of the course affording complete relief within the limits specified in Clause 3a above or, if complete relief is impossible, on a part of the course within the hazard which affords maximum available relief; or

(ii) Under penalty of one stroke, outside the hazard as follows: the point on the course nearest to where the ball lies shall be determined which (a) is not nearer the hole, (b) avoids interference as defined in Clause 2 and (c) is not in a hazard. The player shall drop the ball within one club-length of the point thus determined on a part of the course which fulfills (a), (b) and (c) above.

The ball may be cleaned when lifted under Clause 3.

Carolinas Golf Association
LOCAL RULES

The term “Rule” includes Local Rules made by the Committee under Rule 33-8a.

The Committee may make and publish Local Rules for abnormal conditions if they are consistent with the policy of the Governing Authority for the country concerned as set fourth in Appendix I to these Rules.

Carolinas Golf Association
LOCAL RULES

Preferred Lies

• The player must mark the position of the ball.

• If the player fails to mark the position of the ball before lifting it or moves the ball in any other manner, such as rolling it with a club, he incurs a penalty of one stroke.
Stones in Bunkers

Stones are, by definition, loose impediments and, when a player’s ball is in a hazard, a stone lying in or touching the hazard may not be touched or moved (Rule 13-4).

However, stones in bunkers may represent a danger to players (a player could be injured by a stone struck by the player’s club in an attempt to play the ball) and they may interfere with the proper playing of the game.

Road Hole Bunker
Stones in Bunkers

When permission to lift a stone in a bunker is warranted, the following Local Rule is recommended:

“Stones in bunkers are movable obstructions (Rule 24-1 applies).”

Carolinas Golf Association
33-8/19 Local Rule Permitting Relief on Specified Side of Paved Path

A paved path is parallel to the left side of the 12th hole. If a ball is on the path and the nearest point of relief under Rule 24-2b is on the left side of the path, the player effectively gets no relief as there is a very sharp incline on the left of the path that goes down 30 feet. Would it be appropriate to make a Local Rule giving relief in all cases on the fairway side of this path?
33-8/19 Local Rule Permitting Relief on Specified Side of Paved Path

No. Rule 33-8 states:

*The Committee may establish Local Rules for abnormal conditions.*

It is not abnormal for areas adjacent to paved paths to have dense underbrush, trees, sharp slopes, etc., thereby providing no practical relief.

Furthermore, it would not be appropriate to establish Ball Drops (or Dropping Zones) on the fairway side of the path to alleviate the problem.
33-8/35 Local Rule Treating Rough as a Lateral Water Hazard

The areas immediately adjacent to the fairways consist of large embedded boulders, thick desert brush and prickly cactus. A player whose ball comes to rest in such areas has no opportunity to play a stroke.

Would it be proper to make a Local Rule under which such areas would be treated as lateral water hazards?

Carolinas Golf Association
33-8/35 Local Rule Treating Rough as a Lateral Water Hazard

No.

There are many courses where the areas adjacent to the fairways are of such a nature that a ball therein is almost always lost or unplayable. Thus, such a situation is not abnormal.
33-8/2 Local Rule Allows Drop on Green Side of Water Hazard When Ball Fails to Clear Hazard

At two holes a player must hit the ball about 100 yards in order to carry over water hazards. A Local Rule has been adopted to assist golfers who cannot drive over the hazards. The Local Rule states:

*If a player’s first two tee shots do not carry the water hazard, he may drop his ball on the Ball Drop across the hazard, under penalty of two strokes.*

Is such a Local Rule authorized?

Carolinas Golf Association

8th Tee Sign: “Ball Drop By Green”
33-8/2 Local Rule Allows Drop on Green Side of Water Hazard When Ball Fails to Clear Hazard

No. Such a Local Rule is contrary to Rule 1-1 which says the game consists in playing a ball from the teeing ground into the hole by a stroke or successive strokes in accordance with the Rules.

8th Tee Sign:
“Ball Drop By Green”

Carolinas Golf Association
A pond on a par-3 hole meets the Definition of a lateral water hazard in play from the forward tee but not from the back tee. How should the Committee handle this situation?

The pond should be defined as a water hazard with yellow stakes or a yellow line and there should be a local Rule to the effect that the hazard is a lateral water hazard in play from the forward tee. (Augusta #16)
33-8/31 Local Rule Providing Relief from Accumulations of Leaves Through the Green

The Committee may make a temporary Local Rule declaring accumulations of leaves through the green at certain holes to be ground under repair (see Definition of “Ground Under Repair”) and Rule 25-1 will apply.

Carolinas Golf Association
33-8/31 Local Rule Providing Relief from Accumulations of Leaves Through the Green

The Local Rule should be restricted to the hole(s) at which trouble with leaves occurs and it should be withdrawn as soon as conditions permit. Particular attention is drawn to the opening paragraph of Rule 25-1c (Ball Lost); unless there is reasonable evidence that a ball which cannot be found is lost in the leaves, it must be treated as lost elsewhere and Rule 27 applies.

For fallen leaves in a bunker--See Decision 13-4/33.
33-8/25 Local Rule for Ground Under Repair Adjacent to Artificially-Surfaced Cart Path

When ground under repair is adjacent to an artificially-surfaced cart path (an obstruction), sometimes a player, after obtaining relief from one condition, is interfered with by the other condition. Thus, another drop under another Rule results. This is cumbersome and could lead to complications. Would it be proper to eliminate the problem by means of a Local Rule under which ground under repair adjacent to an artificially-surfaced cart path would have the same status as the cart path?
33-8/25 Local Rule for Ground Under Repair Adjacent to Artificially-Surfaced Cart Path

Yes. If white lines are used to define ground under repair, a Local Rule is suggested as follows:

White-lined areas tying into artificially-surfaced roads or paths are declared to have the same status as the roads or paths, i.e., they are obstructions, not ground under repair. Relief, without penalty, is provided under Rule 24-2b(i).
May a Committee make a Local Rule providing relief without penalty if a player’s stroke is interfered with by exposed tree roots?

No. A Local Rule is authorized only if an abnormal condition exists. The existence of exposed tree roots is not abnormal.