

Preferred Lies

The Rules of Golf (appendix 1 on page 132) details the specimen local rules for when preferred lies are to be in force. In addition paragraph 4c reads as follows:

“Ground under repair is provided for in Rule 25 and occasional local abnormal conditions that might interfere with fair play and are not widespread should be defined as ground under repair”

However, adverse conditions such as heavy snows, spring thaws, prolonged rains or extreme heat can make fairways unsatisfactory and sometimes prevent use of heavy mowing equipment.

When conditions are so general throughout a course that the committee believes “preferred lies” or “winter rules” would promote fair play or help protect the course. The following Local Rule is recommended”

At the conclusion of the school the Director of Rules at the R&A stated that it was evident that many clubs introduce preferred lies to satisfy the whims of their members and not because of the existence of ABNORMAL GROUND CONDITIONS.

It was recommended that Provincial Unions and their clubs fully consider whether abnormal ground conditions actually exist before introducing preferred lies.

As you well know the game of golf is defined as:

“Play the ball as it lies. Play the course as you find it”.