

Criteria for allowing a PAT to adopt the Local Rule for Preferred Lies.

- General philosophy: The course has had extreme adverse conditions such as heavy snows, spring thaws, prolonged rains, etc., that one of the following is true:
 - The course is so saturated from temporary accumulations of water (e.g.: flooding, heavy rain, etc.) that it would require the ball to be moved a substantial distance and potentially into an adverse condition to get complete relief, when taking relief from temporary water as required in Rule 16.1.
 - The imminent threat of heavy rain accumulation (90% probability), on an already saturated course that would again cause the same situation as above when taking complete relief from temporary water. The threat of rain itself does not permit preferred lies to be adopted and it must be a significant amount of rain in the forecast that would result in oversaturating of the course.
- If one of the above conditions are met, then the PAT Examiner may invoke a preferred lies local rule. The PAT Examiner may only invoke a preferred lies local rule in situations meeting the above conditions. A preferred lies local rule shall not be invoked for poor turf conditions in general (e.g. winterkill, lack of grass, or other typical agronomic challenges).

The following recommended wording should be used if preferred lies is adopted:

“When a player’s ball lies in a part of the *general area* cut to fairway height or less, the player may take free relief once by placing the original ball or another ball in and playing it from this *relief area*:

- **Reference Point:** Spot of the original ball.
- **Size of Relief Area Measured from Reference Point:** one *club-length* from the reference point, but with these limits:
- **Limits on Location of Relief Area:**
 - Must not be nearer the *hole* than the reference point, and
 - Must be in the *general area*.

In proceeding under this Local Rule, the player must choose a spot to place the ball and use the procedures for *replacing* a ball under Rules 14.2b(2) and 14.2e.

Penalty for Playing Ball from a *Wrong Place* in Breach of Local Rule: *General Penalty Under Rule 14.7a.*”