

OUT OF BOUNDS; PENALTY AREA; PLAYING TWO BALLS; MAKING A CLAIM

1. **OUT OF BOUNDS. (Rule 18.2a(2))** A ball is OOB only when ALL of it is outside the “In the course line;” i.e. the **straight line** that runs from the course side base of the two white posts on either side of the ball. If **ANY** portion of the ball is on the course side of that line, the ball is NOT OOB. A player may stand in the OOB area in order to hit his ball. The **only** time the OOB line is NOT a straight line is when it is **painted** on the ground, at which time the course side edge of the painted line defines the OOB line. If any portion of the ball is course side of that edge the ball is NOT OOB.
2. **PENALTY AREA. (Rule 17.1a)** A ball is in a Red or Yellow Penalty Area if **ANY** portion of the ball is inside the course side edge of the penalty area. The Penalty Area follows the **natural formation of the topography**. It is **NOT a “straight line”** between the red or yellow stakes. The stakes just define where the penalty area generally begins. The player must decide on the “natural boundary” of the Penalty Area as it curves around the area, following the natural topography.
3. **PLAYING TWO BALLS. (Rule 20.1b (4))** A player may NOT play two balls in Match Play. He must decide how to proceed then either he or his opponent can “Make a Claim” as to the correctness of his decision. Claims will be decided after their Match.
4. **MAKING A CLAIM. (Rule 20.1b (2))** A player may make a Claim about a disagreement on applying a Rule of Golf, but the Claim **MOST ALWAYS** must be made known to the opponent **before** either player makes a stroke to begin the next hole. There are some rare situations where a Claim may be made **AFTER** either has made a stroke on the next hole. They are covered in detail Rule 20.1b(2).