

18.2 Ball Lost or Out of Bounds: Stroke-and-Distance Relief Must Be Taken

18.2a When Ball Is Lost or Out of Bounds

- (1) **When Ball Is Lost.** A ball is *lost* if not found in three minutes after the player or his or her *caddie* begins to search for it.

If a ball is found in that time but it is uncertain whether it is the player's ball:

- The player must promptly attempt to identify the ball (see Rule 7.2) and is allowed a reasonable time to do so, even if that happens after the three-minute search time has ended.
- This includes a reasonable time to get to the ball if the player is not where the ball is found.

If the player does not identify his or her ball in that reasonable time, the ball is *lost*.

- (2) **When Ball Is Out of Bounds.** A ball at rest is *out of bounds* only when all of it is outside the boundary edge of the *course*.

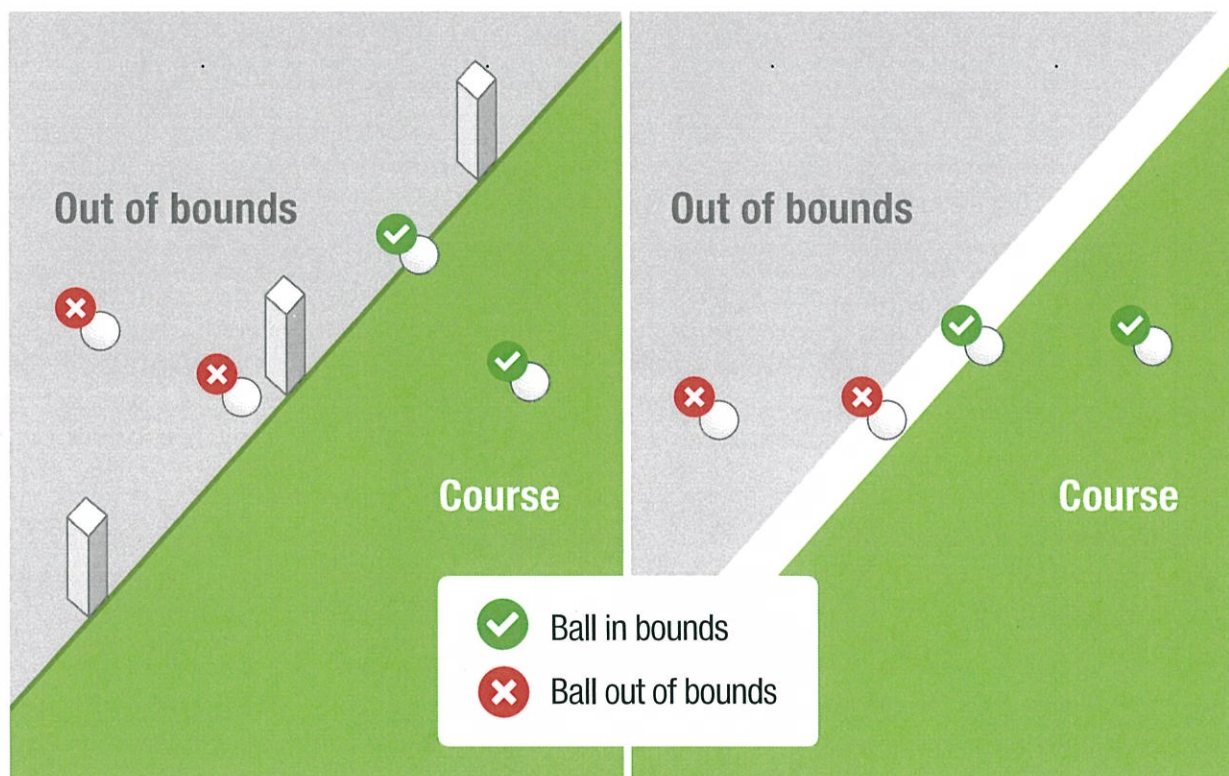
A ball is in bounds when any part of the ball:

- Lies on or touches the ground or anything else (such as any natural or artificial object) inside the boundary edge, or
- Is above the boundary edge or any other part of the *course*.

A player may stand *out of bounds* to play a ball on the *course*.

DIAGRAM 18.2a: WHEN BALL IS OUT OF BOUNDS

A ball is out of bounds only when all of it is outside the boundary edge of the course.
The diagrams provide examples of when a ball is in bounds and out of bounds.



The boundary edge is defined by the line between the course-side points of the stakes at ground level, and the stakes are out of bounds.

The boundary edge is the course-side edge of the line, and the line itself is out of bounds.

18.2b What to Do When Ball Is Lost or Out of Bounds

If a ball is *lost* or *out of bounds*, the player must take *stroke-and-distance* relief by adding **one penalty stroke** and playing the original ball or another ball from where the previous *stroke* was made (see Rule 14.6).

Exception – Player May Substitute Another Ball Under Other Rule When It Is Known or Virtually Certain What Happened to Ball: Instead of taking *stroke-and-distance* relief, the player may *substitute* another ball as allowed under a Rule that applies when his or her ball has not been found and it is *known or virtually certain* that the ball:

- Came to rest on the *course* and was *moved* by an *outside influence* (see Rule 9.6) or played as a *wrong ball* by another player (see Rule 6.3c(2)),
- Came to rest on the *course* in or on a *movable obstruction* (see Rule 15.2b) or an *abnormal course condition* (see Rule 16.1e),