



## 2024 LOCAL RULES & TERMS OF THE COMPETITION

The Rules of Golf approved by the United States Golf Association and the R & A Rules Limited govern play, and the following Local Rules & Conditions supplied by the Committee at the tournament site. Any other Local Rules posted at the competition course, including those on the back of the course scorecard, are not in effect. The following provisions may be subject to change by the NCPGA Tournament Committee.

**Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for a breach of a Local Rule in stroke play is the general penalty:**

**Match Play – Loss of Hole**

**Stroke Play – Two Strokes**

### **LOCAL RULES**

- 1. OUT of BOUNDS and COURSE BOUNDARIES:** Defined by the line between the course-side points at ground level of white stakes and fence posts. When the inside edge of a road or curb defines out of bounds, a ball that crosses such boundary is out of bounds even if it lies on another part of the course.
- 2. Penalty Areas – Rule 17.**
  - a. Dropping Zones:

If a ball is in or it is known or virtually certain that a ball that has not been found is in a penalty area and a drop zone is specified on the applicable "Notice to Players" for that penalty area, the player may as an additional option, drop a ball under penalty of one stroke, in the white lined area labeled "Drop Zone" located as indicated on the applicable "Notice to Players". The ball must be dropped in and come to rest within the drop zone. Model Local Rule E-1.1.
  - b. Relief on Opposite Side of Red Penalty Areas:

Red penalty areas with an opposite side relief option will be indicated on the applicable "Notice to Players". Model Local Rule B-2.1.  
Note: When the edge of a red penalty area coincides with the boundary of the course, Model Local Rule B-2.2 is in effect and modifies the first paragraph of Model Local Rule B-2.1.
- 3. Abnormal Course Conditions – Rule 16.1.**
  - a. Ground Under Repair:
    - i. Areas completely encircled with white lines.
    - ii. French drains, which are trenches filled with rocks or stones.
    - iii. Aeration holes in General Area or on Putting Green – Model Local Rule E-4.
    - iv. Seams of cut turf – Model Local Rule F-7.
    - v. A hole made by a movable obstruction (stakes, signs, tables, chairs or the like) may be treated as Ground Under Repair by the Committee. But interference does not exist if the hole only interferes with the player's stance.
  - b. Immovable Obstructions:
    - i. White lined areas tying into an obstruction are treated as a single abnormal course condition, not ground under repair.
    - ii. When landscaped garden areas (flower beds, shrubbery, or the like) are completely encircled by an obstruction, the obstruction and landscaped area are treated as one abnormal course condition.
    - iii. Roads or paths surfaced with wood chips or mulch; the individual pieces of wood chips or mulch are loose impediments.
    - iv. When railroad ties, curbing or the like adjoin roads and paths, they are deemed to be part of the same abnormal course condition.
  - c. Removal of Temporary Water:

Model Local Rule J-2 is in effect. If a ball lies on the putting green and there is interference by temporary water on the putting green, the player may:

    - i. Proceed under Rule 16.1.
    - ii. Have their line of play squeegeed

Note: Such squeegeeing should be done across the line of play and extend a reasonable distance beyond the hole and only be carried out by individuals designated by the Committee. The Committee may squeegee the putting green at any time.
- 4. Immovable Objects close to putting greens:** Ball in General Area, the player may take relief under Rule 16.1b if an immovable obstruction is:
  - a. On the line of play and is,
  - b. Within two club lengths of the putting green, and
  - c. Within two club lengths of the ball.
- 5. Integral Objects:**
  - a. Bunker Liners – The Committee may treat an exposed liner as ground under repair under Rule 16.1. But interference does not exist if the liner only interferes with the player's stance.
  - b. The portion of wrappings, wires, cables, and other objects when closely attached to trees or objects defining Out of Bounds.
  - c. Artificial retaining walls and/or pilings when located within penalty areas.
- 6. Permanent Elevated Power Lines or Cables:**

Model Local Rule E-11 is in effect and is modified as follows: If it is known or virtually certain that a player's ball hit a power line in bounds, the stroke does not count. The player must play a ball without penalty from where the previous stroke was made in accordance with Rule 14.6.

WOOD CHIPS, MULCH and GRAVEL – Are loose impediments, and a player may remove loose impediments under Rule 15.1a.
- 7. Embedded ball:**

Ball must be embedded in General Area. Relief is allowed under Rule 16.3b only when the ball is embedded in the general area. Exceptions-When ball is embedded in sand in the part of the General Area that is not cut to fairway height or less, or, when interference by anything other than the ball being embedded makes the stroke clearly unreasonable.

#### 8. Specifications of Clubs and the Ball

- a. List of Conforming Driver Heads – Model Local Rule G-1 is in effect. Penalty for making a stroke with club in breach of this Local Rule – Disqualification.
- b. List of Conforming Golf Balls – Model Local Rule G-3 is in effect. Penalty for making a stroke with a ball in breach of this Local Rule – Disqualification.
- c. Groove and punch mark specifications – The player's clubs must conform to the groove and punch mark specifications in the Equipment Rules that took effect January 1, 2010.
- d. The "One Ball Rule" is not in effect.
- e. Model Local Rule G-10 "In making a stroke, the player must not use a club, except for a putter, which exceeds 46 inches in length

#### 9. Pace of Play – Rule 5.6b (3).

See posted NCPGA Pace of Play Guidelines for pace of play and penalties.

#### 10. Stopping Play; Resuming Play – Rule 5.7

Model Local Rule J-1 is in effect as follows:

- a. Immediate Suspension (Dangerous situation): One prolonged note of the air horn.
- b. Normal Suspension (Non-Dangerous situation): Three short notes of the air horn.
- c. Resume Play: Two short notes of the air horn.

Note: During an immediate suspension for a dangerous situation, all practice areas are closed until the Committee has declared them open. Players who disregard such closing are subject to disciplinary action.

#### 11. Practice – Rule 5.

Before or between rounds in stroke play – Model Local Rule I-1.1 is in effect and Rule 5.2b is modified as follows: A player must not practice on the competition course but may practice on the designated practice areas. Penalty for breach of Local Rule, see Rule 5.2.

**Practice between holes:** – (Stroke Play Only) A player must not play any practice stroke on or near the putting green of the last hole just completed or test the surface of that putting green by rubbing the putting green or rolling a ball. If a practice stroke is played on or near the putting green of the last hole played, the player shall incur the general penalty at the next hole, except that in the case of the last hole of the round, he incurs the penalty at that hole.

#### 12. Aeration holes – Ball in General Area

(a) If a player's ball lies in or touches an aeration hole the player may take relief under Rule 16.1. If the ball comes to rest in another aeration hole, the player may take relief again under this rule.

(b) Ball on Putting Green. The player may take relief under Rule 16.1 d. Interference does not exist if the aeration hole only interferes with the player's stance or, on the Putting Green. On the player's line of play.

**OBSTRUCTIONS – Any artificial object except for integral objects and boundary objects.**

#### 13. Prohibition of Audio/Video Devices: Rule 4.3a(4) is modified as follows: During a round, a player must not use ear buds of any nature when listening to a personal audio/video device.

#### 14. Transportation – Only two golf carts will be allowed per group (unless otherwise noted on the Entry Form).

- A player and a caddie may ride together in the same cart; however, each player in that group is entitled to ½ the cart.
- Only players and/or caddies are allowed in a cart.
- A player may carry his own bag (unless otherwise noted on the Entry Form).
- All golf cart drivers must have a valid driver's license and be at least 18 years old.

#### 15. Deciding Ties

In the event of a tie for first place, unless otherwise specified, a hole-by-hole stroke play play-off will determine the winner immediately following the last round.

#### 16. Scorecard Returned

A player's scorecard has been returned to the Committee when the player has exited the defined scoring area with both feet. Prior to returning the scorecard, a player that needs to leave the scoring area must inform the Committee of his intention to leave and immediately return.

#### 17. When Result of Competition is Final

The competition is final when all scores have been approved by the Committee. In the event of a play-off, the competition is final when the play-off scores have been approved by the Committee.

#### 18. Code of Conduct

By signing an official entry form, registering online, or verbally committing to compete in a NCPGA event, the player agrees to abide by the prescribed Rules of Conduct that can be found in Article VI of the NCPGA Tournament Rules & Regulations. Violations of the Rules of Conduct can result in a fine and/or loss of playing privileges. Any conduct deemed unprofessional towards the host professional, golf course, or the NCPGA shall be dealt with according to the NCPGA Tournament Rules & Regulations and/or the Code of Ethics of the PGA of America.

#### 19. Maximum Length of Golf Clubs (January 1, 2022)

Model Local Rule G-10 "In making a stroke, the player must not use a club, except for a putter, which exceeds 46 inches in length. Penalty for Making a Stroke with a Club in Breach of this Local Rule: Disqualification.

There is no penalty under this Local Rule for carrying but not making a stroke with a club which does not conform to these length specifications

**ADVICE TO TEAM MEMBERS:**

During an NCPGA Pro Series event where an individual and team event is taking place concurrently, partners may exchange advice if only one partner is playing in the individual competition

**PLAYING TWO BALLS:**

Rule 20.1c(3) A player who is uncertain about the right procedure while playing a hole may complete the hole with two balls without penalty.

**1/ 2/2024**