

Southern Ohio PGA

Local Rules & Conditions of Competition

Play is governed by the Rules of Golf effective January 2023, and where applicable, by the following Local Rules and Terms of the Competition. Committee Procedures refers to the Committee Procedures section in the current Official Guide to the Rules of Golf. The Committee refers to the SOPGA Rules Committee.

Unless otherwise provided, penalty for breach of a Local Rule is the General Penalty:

Match Play – Loss of Hole; Stroke Play – Two Strokes

CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION

1. **SUSPENSION OF PLAY DUE TO A DANGEROUS SITUATION:** When play is suspended for a dangerous situation, if the players in a match or group are between the play of two holes, they must not resume play until the Committee has ordered the resumption of play. If they are in the process of playing a hole, they must discontinue play immediately and must not continue until the Committee has ordered a resumption of play.

NOTE: A suspension for a dangerous situation will be signaled by one prolonged siren or horn blast. All other types of suspension will be signaled by three intermittent siren or horn blasts. Resumption of play will be signaled by two intermittent siren or horn blasts.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF THIS CONDITION: **DISQUALIFICATION**

All practice areas will be closed during suspension for a dangerous situation until the Committee has declared them open for use.

2. **GOLF BALLS:** The ball the player plays must be named on the current List of Conforming Golf Balls issued by the USGA.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF THIS CONDITION: **DISQUALIFICATION**

3. **DRIVER HEADS:** Any driver the player carries must have a clubhead, identified by model and loft, that is named on the current List of Conforming Driver Heads issued by the USGA.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF THIS CONDITION: **Penalty for breach is Disqualification**

4. **GROOVE & PUNCH MARK SPECIFICATION:** The player's clubs must conform to the groove and punch mark specifications in the Rules of Golf that are effective from January 1, 2010.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF THIS CONDITION: **Disqualification**

5. **ONE -BALL CONDITION:** Is not in effect

6. **PACE OF PLAY:** (RULE 5.6 Unreasonable Delay) A player shall be subject to penalty if he/she unreasonably delays play. The Local Rule for Pace of Play is in effect & posted.

7. **RETURNING SCORECARD:** (a) For the purpose of applying Rule 3.3b(2), a player's scorecard is treated as returned 15 minutes after the last player in each group has left the defined scoring area. (b) Modification of Penalty Under Rule 3.3b(2) for Missing Player or Marker Certification: If a player returns a scorecard without the hole scores being certified either by the player, the marker or both, the player gets the general penalty. The penalty applies to the last hole of the player's round. (MLR L-1)

8. **CLOSE OF THE COMPETITION:** When all scores have been posted on the Official Scoreboard and approved by the SOPGA Rules Committee, the results of competition are deemed to have been officially announced.

9. **LIFTING AN EMBEDDED BALL:** The EMBEDDED BALL RULE as written in Rule 16.3 is in effect in the general area.

10. **OUT OF BOUNDS:** Defined by the inside edge of white stakes and/or property fence posts at ground level.

Note: A ball, which crosses a public road defined as out of bounds and comes to rest beyond that road, is out of bounds even though it may lie on another part of the course

11. **TREE WRAPPINGS, ELECTRICAL WIRES, AND CABLES:** Closely attached to trees: No relief. Tree wrappings, electrical wires, cables, signs, and lightning rods closely attached to trees are not obstructions. They are integral parts of the course.

12. **RED & YELLOW PENALTY AREA STAKES AND LINES:** Penalty Areas are defined by yellow/red lines and identified by yellow/red stakes. When a red penalty area is defined on only one side, it is deemed to extend to infinity. When penalty areas are bounded by out of bounds, the penalty area margin extends to and coincides with the out of bounds line

13. **GROUND UNDER REPAIR:**

- a) Areas completely encircled with white lines (except ball drops)
- b) French drains which are trenches filled with stones
- c) Relief is for the lie of the ball & area of intended swing for the following: (general area only)
 - i) Sod Seams – All seams within the sodded area are considered the same seam
 - ii) Newly trenched areas

14. **RETAINING WALLS AND PILINGS:** When located within penalty areas or within and/or around bunkers, retaining walls and pilings are integral parts of the course.

15. **OBSTRUCTIONS:**

- a) Asphalt and artificially surfaced roads and paths are obstructions.
- b) When railroad ties, curbing, and the like adjoin cart paths and roads, they are deemed to be part of the same obstruction.
- c) White lined areas tying into roads and paths have the same status as the roads and paths, and thus they are obstructions and not ground under repair.
- d) Landscaped garden areas completely encircled by an obstruction are part of the obstruction

16. **TEMPORARY IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS:** Committee Procedure Section 8 is in effect and includes any temporary obstruction installed for the competition. (Model Local Rule F-23)

17. **DAMAGE ON PUTTING GREEN:** On the putting green as written in 13.1c(2), the player may repair damage on the putting green.

18. **PERMANENT ELEVATED POWER LINES & CABLES:** As stated in committee procedures, if a ball strikes a permanent elevated power line or cable, the stroke is canceled, and the player must play a ball as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was played. (Making Next Stroke from Where Previous Stroke Made).

19. **ACCIDENTAL MOVEMENT OF A BALL ON PUTTING GREEN:** Rule 13.1d is stated as follows, when a player's ball lies on the putting green, there is no penalty if the ball or ball-marker is accidentally moved by the player, his partner, his opponent, or any of their caddies or equipment. The moved ball or ball-marker must be replaced as provided in Rules 13.1d(1). This Rule applies only when the player's ball or ball-marker lies on the putting green and any movement is accidental.

As stated in Rule 13.1d(2), if it is determined that a player's ball on the putting green was moved as a result of natural forces, where the player plays from next depends on whether the ball has been lifted and replaced on its original spot. If the ball has not been lifted and replaced the ball must be played from its new spot. If the ball has been lifted and replaced the ball must be replaced on its original spot which if not known must be estimated.

20. **DISTANCE MEASURING DEVICES:** In SOPGA competitions, a player or his/her caddie may obtain distance information by using a device that measures distance. If, during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance measuring device to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his/her play (e.g., gradient, wind speed, temperature, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 4.3a, for which the penalty for the first offense is general penalty and disqualification for any subsequent offense.