



PGA

Philadelphia Section

RULES OF PLAY

Play is governed by the Rules of Golf of the United States Golf Association, and where applicable, by the following Local Rules, Conditions and Definitions. Appendix I refers to the Appendix of Local Rules; Conditions of the Competition in the USGA Rules of Golf. Unless otherwise provided, penalty for a breach of Local Rule is: Stroke Play: Two Strokes; Match Play: Loss of Hole.

1. **SUSPENSION OF PLAY DUE TO A DANGEROUS SITUATION:**

When play is suspended for a dangerous situation, if the players in a group are between the play of two holes, they must not resume play until the Committee has ordered a resumption of play. If they are in the process of playing a hole, **they must discontinue play immediately** and must not resume play until the Committee has ordered a resumption of play.

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

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 CONDITION: Disqualification

2. **TIME OF STARTING:** (Note to Rule 6-3a) If the player arrives at his starting point, ready to play, within five minutes after his starting time, in the absence of circumstances that warrant waiving the penalty of disqualification as provided in Rule 33-7, the penalty for failure to start on time is two strokes at the first hole in stroke play. Penalty for lateness beyond five minutes is disqualification.
3. **PACE OF PLAY:** Rule 6-7; A player shall be subject to penalty if he or she unduly delays play. The Philadelphia Section PGA Pace of Play guidelines are readily available on the starting tees and in effect for all events.
4. **LIFTING AN EMBEDDED BALL:** The "EMBEDDED BALL RULE" as written in Appendix I is in effect "through the green".
5. **PRACTICE AT PUTTING GREEN OF HOLE LAST PLAYED IS PROHIBITED:** Between the play of two holes, a player must not make any practice stroke or roll a ball on or near the putting green of the hole last played.
6. **ROADS & PATHS:** White lined areas tying into roads and paths define obstructions and not ground under repair.
7. **OUT OF BOUNDS:** Defined by inside edge of white stakes and/or property fence posts at ground level.
8. **GROUND UNDER REPAIR:**
 - a) Areas defined by white lines (except Dropping Zones), including those marked for gallery crosswalks.

- b) French drains, which are trenches, filled with rocks or stones.
- c) Relief is for lie of ball or area of intended swing only for the following (through the green only):
 - (i) Seams of cut turf – All seams within the cut turf area are considered the same seam.
 - (ii) Newly trenched areas.
 - (iii) Painted yardage markings located in any closely mown area.

- 9. **RETAINING WALLS AND PILINGS:** When located within water hazards or within and/or around bunkers, retaining walls and pilings are integral parts of the course.
- 10. **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.
- 11. **WATER HAZARDS/LATERAL WATER HAZARDS:** Water hazards are defined by yellow stakes and lines. Red stakes and lines define lateral Water Hazards. When both are present, the stakes identify and the lines define the hazard. When neither is present, the water line defines the margin of the hazard.
- 12. **PERMANENT ELEVATED POWER LINES & CABLES:** If a ball strikes a line or cable, the stroke shall be canceled and the ball must be replayed, without penalty, in accordance with Rule 20-5. If the ball is not immediately recoverable, another ball may be substituted.
- 13. **TURF PLUGS ON PUTTING GREENS:** On the putting green, in addition to Rule 16-1c, the player may repair turf plugs of any size.

14. **STAKED TREES:** If lie of ball, stance and/or area of intended swing are interfered with by the stake attached to a tree, the stake and/or rope/wire is treated as an immovable obstruction. Relief without penalty from the tree itself is not permitted.
15. **AUTOMOTIVE TRANSPORTATION:** Except when otherwise specified, players are permitted to ride. A golf cart is part of the player's equipment. 1) For reasons of safety or pace of play occasional scouting is permitted. The committee shall identify holes where scouting is permitted prior to beginning play. 2) Spectator carts are not permitted. Only official carts authorized by the Rules Committee will be allowed on the golf course.
16. **NON-METAL/PENETRATING SPIKE POLICY IN EFFECT**
17. **RESULT OF THE COMPETITION:** When all scores have been posted on the Official Scoreboard and approved by the Committee, the result of the Competition is deemed to have been officially announced.
18. **AERATION HOLES:**
Through the green a ball that comes to rest on an aeration hole may be lifted, without penalty, cleaned and dropped as near as possible to the spot where it lay but not nearer the hole.
On the putting green a ball that comes to rest on an aeration hole may be placed at the nearest spot, not nearer the hole, that avoids the situation