

# 2024 PHILADELPHIA SECTION PGA

## Local Rules and Terms of the Competition

The Rules of Golf approved by the United States Golf Association and R&A Rules Limited govern play, except as modified below by the Philadelphia Section PGA. The following Local Rules and Terms of the Competition apply as referenced below and may be found in the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf, effective January 1, 2023. See the applicable competition's "Notice to Players", for additional definitions, Local Rules and amendments.

Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule is: Match Play - Loss of Hole; Stroke Play - Two Strokes.

### 1. Stopping Play; Resuming Play - Rule 5.7

#### a. Methods for Stopping and Resuming Play:

A suspension of play for a dangerous situation will be signaled by one prolonged note of a siren or horn. All other suspensions will be signaled by three consecutive notes of a siren or horn. In either case, resumption of play will be signaled by two short notes of a siren or horn. See Rule 5.7b.

**Note:** All practice areas are closed during an immediate suspension for a dangerous situation until the *Committee* has declared them open.

#### b. Removal of Temporary Water on the Putting Green:

If a player's ball lies on the *putting green* and there is interference by *temporary water* on the *putting green* the player may:

- 1) Take free relief under Rule 16-1d or
- 2) Have their *line of play* squeegeed

Such squeegeeing should be done across the *line of play* and extend a reasonable distance beyond the *hole* (That is at least one roller length) and only be carried out by individuals designated by the *Committee*.

**Note:** The *Committee* may squeegee the *putting green* at any time.

### 2. Restrictions on Use of Specific Equipment

#### a. List of Conforming Driver Heads:

Any driver the player uses to make a stroke must have a club head, identified by model and loft, which is on the current List of Conforming Driver Heads issued by the USGA.

#### 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 driver that is not on the List of Conforming Driver Heads (See Model Local Rule G-1 in Committee Procedures).

#### b. Grooves and Punch Mark Specifications:

In making a stroke, the player must use clubs that conform to the groove and punch mark specifications in the Equipment Rules that took effect on January 1, 2010. Ping Eye 2 irons manufactured before March 31, 1990 with groove spacing to groove width ration of 2.3 to 1 are allowed for play under the Rules of Golf, even when this Local Rule is in effect (See Model Local Rule G-2 in Committee Procedures).

#### 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 groove and punch mark specifications.

#### c. List of Conforming Golf Balls:

Any ball used in making a stroke must be on the current List of Conforming Golf Balls issued by the USGA.

#### Penalty for Making a Stroke at a Ball Not on Current List in Breach of this Local Rule - Disqualification

### 3. Committee Pace of Play Policy (See Rule 5.6b(3)):

The Local Rule setting a Pace of Play Policy, including penalties for not following this Policy, is published in the Philadelphia Section PGA Rules & Regulations and will be posted on the starting tees.

### 4. Measuring Condition of Putting Greens:

Before or between rounds on any day of the Competition or play-off, a player or his caddie must not use any device that measures the condition (Slope, texture, firmness or moisture level) of any putting green on the course. The use of such a device is only permitted on practice days.

### 5. Restrictions on Practice

#### a. Before and Between Rounds:

Rule 5.2 is modified in this way: A player must not practice on the competition *course* before or between *rounds*.

#### Penalty for Breach of this Local Rule:

**Penalty for first breach - General Penalty** (Applied to the player's first hole).

**Penalty for second breach - Disqualification.**

#### b. Between the Play of Two Holes:

A player must not make any practice *stroke* on or near the *putting green* of the hole just completed or test the surface of that *putting green* by rubbing the *putting green* or rolling a ball.

### 6. Returning Scorecard

For the purpose of applying Rule 3.3b(2), a player's scorecard is treated as returned 15 minutes after all players in the group have left the scoring area (Defined by blue tape) with both feet.

Exception: A player's scorecard is returned, even if it occurs before the 15-minute time limit has expired: The player has made a stroke to begin their next round or playoff.

Note: When applying the Exception to Rule 3.3b(3) or under any Rule where a player must correct a mistake before returning their scorecard (such as Rule 14.7b(3)), the player's scorecard is returned when the player has left the scoring area.

### 7. When the Result of the Competition is Final

When all scores have been posted on the official scoreboard and approved by the Committee, the Competition is closed.

### 8. Out of Bounds and Course Boundaries

a. A ball coming to rest on or beyond a road defined as out of bounds, is out of bounds, even though it may lie on another part of the course, under Model Local Rules A-5.

b. Closed gates attached to a boundary are part of the boundary object under Model Local Rule F-26.

### 9. Abnormal Course Conditions

#### a. Immovable Obstructions:

Asphalt and artificially surfaced roads and paths; white lined areas of ground under repair tying into such roads or paths are treated as a single abnormal course condition when taking relief under Rule 16.1.

Railroad ties, curbing, or other similar artificial edges adjoining cart paths are part of the same obstruction.

#### b. Ground Under Repair:

i. Defined by any area encircled by a white line (Except dropping zones or out of bounds).

ii. French drains, which are trenches filled with rocks or stones.

iii. Seams of Cut Turf: If a player's ball lies in or touches a seam of cut turf or the seam interferes with the player's area of intended swing, in the general area, the player may take relief under Rule 16.1. But interference does not exist if the seam only interferes with the player's stance. All seams within the area of cut turf area are treated as the same seam in taking relief (See Model Local Rule F-7).

### 9. Animal Near Ball

Model Local Rule E-13 is in effect. An animal, other than those defined as a loose impediment, may be removed. If the ball moves there is no penalty, and the ball must be replaced.

### 10. Integral Objects

a. Retaining walls and pilings when located in penalty areas  
b. Wires, cables, wrappings, signs and lighting rods closely

attached to trees or objects defining out of bounds.

c. Bunker liners in their intended position.

**Note:** The Committee may deem an exposed liner to be ground under repair, but, interference does not exist if the liner only interferes with the player's stance.

### 11. Penalty Areas

#### 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 dropping zone is specified on the "Notice to Players" for that penalty area, the player may as an extra option, drop a ball under penalty of one stroke, in the white lined area labeled "DZ" located as indicated on the applicable "Notice to Players". The ball must be dropped in and come to rest within the dropping zone (See 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" (See 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.

### 12. Aeration Holes

If a player's ball lies in or touches an aeration hole:

a. In the general area, the player may take relief under Rule 16.1b. If the ball comes to rest in another aeration hole, the player may take relief again under this Local Rule.

b. On the putting green, the player may take relief under Rule 16.1d.

But, 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.

### 13. Permanent Elevated Power Lines or Cables

If it known or virtually certain that a ball hit a power line or cable in bounds, the stroke does not count, and the player must play a ball without penalty from where the previous stroke was made in accordance with Rule 14.6.

### 14. Replacing Club that is Broken or Significantly Damaged

Model Local Rule G-9 is in effect. Rule 4.1a(2) is modified in this way: Rule 4.1a(2) applies except that a club that is damaged by the player or their caddie during the round (including while play is stopped under Rule 5.7a) may only be replaced if it is "broken or significantly damaged. For the purposes of this Local Rule: A club is "Broken or Significantly Damaged" when:

- The shaft breaks into pieces, splinters or is bent (But not when the shaft is only dented),
- The club face impact area is visibly deformed (But not when the club face is only scratched),
- The clubhead is visibly and significantly deformed (but not when the clubhead is only cracked)
- The club head is detached or loose from the shaft, or
- The grip is loose

**Exception:** A club face or clubhead is not "Broken or Significantly Damaged" solely because it is cracked.

**Penalty for Breach of this Local Rule** – See Rule 4.1b.

### 15. Modification of Penalty Under Rule 3.3b(2) for Missing Player or Marker Certification – Scoring in Stroke Play

Model Local Rule L-1 is in effect. Rule 3.3b(2) is modified in this way: 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 (two penalty strokes). The penalty applies to the last hole of the player's round.



PHILADELPHIA