

2026 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 squeegee

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 ratio 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

d. Maximum Club Length:

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 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. Restrictions on Practice

a. Before and Between Rounds:

Rule 5.2b 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. (MLR I-1.2)

b. Between the Play of Two Holes:

Model Local Rule I-2 is in effect and Rule 5.5b is modified as follows: 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.

5. 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. (Model Local Rules A-5)

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

6. Abnormal Course Conditions

a. Immovable Obstructions:

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

b. Ground Under Repair:

- i. 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).

7. Immovable Obstructions Close to the Putting Green

Model Local Rule F-5.2 is in effect. For a ball in the general area, relief may be taken under Rule 16.1b when both the ball and the obstruction lie in an area cut to fairway height or less. The obstruction must be located:

- i. On or within two club-lengths of the putting green,
- ii. On the player's line of play, and
- iii. The ball must be within two club-lengths of the obstruction.

8. 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.

9. Integral Objects

- a. Artificial retaining walls and/or pilings when located in penalty areas
- b. The portion of wires, cables, wrappings, or other objects when closely attached to trees or objects defining out of bounds.
- c. Bunker liners in their intended position.

Note: An exposed liner may be treated by the Committee as ground under repair. But interference does not exist if the liner only interferes with the player's stance.

10. Penalty Areas

a. Dropping Zones: Dropping Zones are listed on the applicable Notice to Players and are relief areas under Model Local Rule E-1.1. The ball must be dropped in and come to rest within the dropping zone.

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).

c. Opposite side relief is available when a ball last crossed the edge of a red penalty area that coincides with out of bounds under Model Local Rule B-2.2.

11. 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.

12. Embedded Ball

Model Local Rule F-2.3 is in effect. Relief may be available when it is known or virtually certain that a ball is embedded in any player's pitch-mark in the general area in an area cut to fairway height or less.

13. Permanent Elevated Power Lines

Model Local Rule E-11 is in effect and is modified as follows: If it is known or virtually certain that a ball hit a power line in bounds, the player must replay the stroke (see Rule 14.6). If the player does not replay the stroke, they get the general penalty and the stroke counts, but he has not played from a wrong place.

14. Returning Scorecard

a. For the purpose of applying Rule 3.3b(2), a player's scorecard is treated as returned 15 minutes after the scorecard is accepted into the electronic scoring system.

Exception 1: If the player is in the scoring area when the 15-minute time limit expires, the player's scorecard is only returned when the player leaves the scoring area.

Exception 2: A player's scorecard is returned if any of the following events occur, even if it occurs before the 15-minute limit has expired or the player is still in the scoring area:

- * Starting times have been released after a cut is made.
- * The player begins their next round.
- * Any player has made a stroke to begin a play-off.
- * the competition has closed.

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), the player's scorecard is returned when the player has left the scoring Area.

15. Modification of Penalty Under Rule 3.3b(2) for Missing Player or Marker Certification:

Model Local Rule L-1 is in effect. 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.

16. When the Result of the Competition is Final

The competition is final when all scores have been validated in the scoring system and 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.



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