

The Rules of Golf as approved by the USGA and R&A Rules Limited govern play. See applicable event Notice to Players, event information and the GSGA Junior Tour Code of Conduct and Pace of Play Policy for modifications or additions to these Local Rules and Terms of the Competition. Complete text of the Rules and Local Rules may be found in the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf, effective January 2023.

Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule is two strokes in stroke play or loss of hole in match play.

1 – LISTS OF CONFORMING GOLF BALLS/DRIVER HEADS: Model Local Rules G-1 and G-3 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures are in effect. Penalty for making a stroke with club or ball not on current list in breach of this Local Rule: DISQUALIFICATION.

2 – CLUB BROKEN OR SIGNIFICANTLY DAMAGED: Model Local Rule G-9 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.

3 – MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION: During a round, a player or caddie must not ride on any form of motorized transportation except as authorized or later approved by the Committee.

- Exception: a player may ride in designated shuttles and may accept transportation when playing under stroke and distance.

4 – HEADPHONES AND EARBUDS: During a round, a player must not use headphones or earbuds. Penalty for breach of Local Rule, see Rule 4.3.

5 – FOOTWEAR: During a round, a player must not wear shoes with:

- Traditional spikes – that is, spikes having single or multiple points designed to penetrate deeply into the surface of the ground (regardless of whether made of metal, ceramic, plastic, or other materials); or
- Spikes of any design that are entirely or partially made of metal if such metal may contact the course.

Penalty for breach of Local Rule, see Rule 4.3.

6 – OFFICIAL TIME: The official time is located only at the starting tee(s).

7 – OUT OF BOUNDS: Defined by the line between the course-side points of the stakes or fence posts at ground level. When defined by a white line, the line itself is out of bounds. A ball coming to rest on or beyond any public road is out of bounds, even if it comes to rest on another part of the course that is in bounds for other holes.

8 – PENALTY AREAS: Defined by stakes, lines, or physical features. When a penalty area is defined on only one side, it extends to infinity. When a penalty area is connected to the out-of-bounds edge, the penalty area extends to and coincides with out of bounds.

9 – GROUND UNDER REPAIR: Defined by white lines, and the line itself is in the ground under repair. French drains are ground under repair.

10 – WHITE-LINED AREAS TYING INTO ARTIFICIALLY SURFACED ROADS AND PATHS: Where white-lined areas of ground under repair are tied into artificially surfaced roads or paths they are treated as a single abnormal course condition when taking relief under Rule 16.1.

11 – ANIMAL NEAR BALL: Model Local Rule E-13 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.

12 – WOOD CHIPS AND MULCH: Are loose impediments.

13 – SEAMS OF CUT TURF: If a player's ball lies in or touches a seam of cut turf or a seam interferes with the player's area of intended swing:

- (a) Ball in General Area: The player may take relief under Rule 16.1b.
- (b) Ball on Putting Green: The player may take relief under Rule 16.1d.

But interference does not exist if the seam only interferes with the player's stance.

All seams within the area of cut turf are treated as the same seam in taking relief. This means that if a player has interference from any seam after dropping the ball, the player must proceed as required under Rule 14.3c(2) even when the ball is still within one club-length of the reference point.

14 – AREAS DEFINED BY BLUE STAKES/LINES: Any area defined by blue stakes or lines is a no play zone that is to be treated as an abnormal course condition. Free relief must be taken from interference by the no play zone under Rule 16.1f. When a ball is in a no play zone within a penalty area, the ball must not be played as it lies, and relief must be taken from interference by the no play zone under Rule 17.1e.

15 – INTEGRAL OBJECTS: Include cables, rods, wires, and wrappings when closely attached to trees, and artificial walls and pilings when located in penalty areas and bunkers, and bunker liners. An exposed bunker liner may be treated as ground under repair, but interference does not exist if the liner interferes only with the player's stance.

16 – AERATION HOLES: If a player's ball lies in or touches an aeration hole:

- (a) Ball in 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) Ball on 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 area of intended swing or, on the putting green, on the player's line of play.

17 – DROPPING ZONES: A dropping zone is a special form of relief area that may be adopted by the Committee. When taking relief in a dropping zone, the player must drop the ball and have it come to rest in the dropping zone. A dropping zone is an area enclosed by a white line identified by the initials GSGA DZ. The line itself is in the dropping zone.

18 – TEMPORARY IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS (TIOs): Model Local Rule F-23 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Greenside fans, tents and stakes/ropes immediately adjacent to tents are TIOs.

- "Either Side" Relief Option: If a player has interference from a TIO the player may take relief on either side of the TIO.

19 – BALL DEFLECTED BY POWER LINE: If it is known or virtually certain that a player's ball hit a power line or wire or pole supporting a power line during play of a hole, the stroke does not count. The player must play a ball without penalty from where the previous stroke was made (see Rule 14.6).

20 – STOPPING AND RESUMING PLAY: Model Local Rule J-1 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. An immediate suspension will be signaled by one prolonged airhorn note. All other types of suspension will be signaled by three consecutive airhorn notes. Resumption of play will be signaled by two short airhorn notes. All practice areas are closed during an immediate suspension for a dangerous situation until the Committee has declared them open.

21 – PRACTICE: Prior to and after a round in stroke play, a player may practice on the designated practice areas. On the day of a stroke-play competition, a player must not practice on the course before a round. Penalty for breach of Rule, see Rule 5.2.

22 – MISSING PLAYER OR MARKER CERTIFICATION: Model Local Rule L-1 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.

23 – DECIDING TIES: In multi-day competitions ONLY, ties for first place will be decided by a hole-by-hole playoff. If a playoff is not feasible, co-champions will be awarded. For single-day competitions no ties will be broken.

24 – WHEN COMPETITION IS FINAL: The competition is final when the award has been presented to the winner or, in the absence of an awards ceremony, when all scores have been approved by the Committee. The result of a match is final when the Committee has approved the result as posted on the official scoreboard.

Revised – 12/8/25