

The Rules of Golf as approved by the United States Golf Association and R&A Rules Limited govern play. These Local Rules and Terms of the Competition are in effect at all GSGA championships and qualifying rounds. See applicable championship or qualifying round Notice to Players and Entry Application 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 2019.

Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule or Condition is the general penalty.

**1 - LISTS OF CONFORMING GOLF BALLS/DRIVER HEADS:** Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule G-1 and G-3.

**2 – GROOVE AND PUNCH MARK SPECIFICATIONS:** Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect, except as modified by the applicable championship Entry Application. Model Local Rule G-2.

**3 – CLUB BROKEN OR SIGNIFICANTLY DAMAGED:** If a player's club is broken or significantly damaged during the round by the player or caddie, except in cases of abuse, the player may replace the club with any club under Rule 4.1b(4). When replacing a club, the player must immediately take the broken or significantly damaged club out of play, using the procedure in Rule 4.1c(1). 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 only scratched), the clubhead is visibly and significantly deformed, the clubhead is detached or loose from the shaft, or the grip is loose. A club face or clubhead is not "broken or significantly damaged" solely because it is cracked.

**4 - TRANSPORTATION:** GSGA Cart Policy is in effect unless otherwise noted on the Notice to Players.

**5- FOOTWEAR:** It is a condition of all GSGA Competitions that shoes with traditionally designed spikes (regardless of composition, i.e., ceramic, plastic, etc.) or spikes, regardless of design, comprised either entirely or partially of metal (if such metal may come in contact with the course) are prohibited during the stipulated round. Penalty: DISQUALIFICATION.

**6 - OFFICIAL TIME:** The official time is located only at the starting tees.

**7 - OUT OF BOUNDS:** Defined by the line between the course-side points, at ground level, of white stakes and fence posts. When out of bounds is defined by a white line on the ground, the line itself is out of bounds. A ball coming to rest on or crossing any public road is considered out of bounds, even if it comes to rest on another part of the golf course.

**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. *When taking back on the line relief from a penalty area, the reference point must be outside that penalty area.*

**9 – BACK-ON-THE-LINE RELIEF:** For a ball played from outside a relief area when taking back-on-the-line relief, Model Local Rule E-12 is in effect.

**10 - GROUND UNDER REPAIR:** Defined by white lines. French drains are ground under repair. The white lines are considered in ground under repair.

**11 - RELIEF FROM SEAMS OF CUT TURF:** Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule F-7.

**12 – WHITE-LINED AREAS TYING INTO ARTIFICIALLY SURFACED ROADS AND PATHS:** White-lined areas of ground under repair and the artificially surfaced roads, paths or other identified obstructions such as curbing, walls, steps, drains, and permanent structures that they are connected to or abutting, are a single abnormal course condition when taking relief under Rule 16.1.

**13 - AERATION HOLES:** In the General Area, a ball that comes to rest in or on an aeration hole may be lifted, without penalty, cleaned and dropped, within the relief area and not nearer the hole in the General Area. All aeration holes are treated as the same hole for re-dropping purposes.

**14 - INTEGRAL OBJECTS:** Include cables, rods, wires and wrappings when closely attached to trees; and artificial walls and pilings when located in penalty areas or in or adjacent to bunkers. 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.

**15 - 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 DZ. The line itself is in the dropping zone.

**16 - STAKED TREES:** If lie of ball, stance, and/or area of intended swing is interfered with by the stake attached to a tree, the stake and/or rope/wire is treated as an abnormal course condition. Relief without penalty from the tree itself is not permitted.

**17 - TEMPORARY IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS:** Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule F-23. (Under this Rule, relief from fans may be taken on either side.)

**18 - ELEVATED OVERHEAD POWER LINES AND CABLES:** If it is known or virtually certain that a player's ball hit a power line (or tower or a wire or pole supporting a power line) during the play of any 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. for what to do).

**19 – LIMITING WHEN STROKE MADE FROM PUTTING GREEN MUST BE REPLAYED UNDER EXCEPTION 2 to RULE 11.1b:** Local Rule as prescribed in the Clarifications to the 2019 Rules of Golf is in effect. Model Local Rule D-7.

**20 - PACE OF PLAY:** GSGA Pace of Play Policy is in effect. See separate memorandum to players for pace of play policy.

**21 - STOPPING AND RESUMING PLAY:** Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule J-1. 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.

**22 - PRACTICE:** Prior to and after a round in stroke play, a player may practice on the designated practice areas. Rule 5.2b covering practice in stroke play is modified in this way: A player may not practice on the competition course before or between rounds. Penalty for breach of Local Rule, see Rule 5.2.

**23 - WHEN COMPETITION IS FINAL:** The competition is final when the trophy has been presented to the winner or, in the absence of a prize 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.

**24 - NO SHOW POLICY:** "Those players who fail to appear for their assigned tee time without notifying the GSGA or the host club may be suspended from play for all GSGA tournaments for one year. Suspension includes the following year's event in which the infraction occurred. NO SHOWS also include any player who fails to turn in a scorecard himself or who withdraws during play without notifying an official and personally surrendering his scorecard to that official."



The Rules of Golf as approved by the United States Golf Association and R&A Rules Limited govern play and, where applicable, by the following Local Rules, Conditions, and Definitions, subject to changes or amendments by the Georgia State Golf Association Rules Committee. Complete text to the Rules and Local Rules may be found in the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf, effective January 2019.

Unless otherwise specified, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule or Condition is the general penalty.

- 1 - LISTS OF CONFORMING GOLF BALLS/DRIVER HEADS:** Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule G-1 and G-3.
- 2 - LIMITATION ON GOLF BALLS (“ONE-BALL RULE”):** Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule G-4.
- 3. – MAXIMUM LENGTH OF CLUBS OTHER THAN PUTTERS:** In making a stroke, the players must not use a club, except for a putter, which exceeds 46 inches in length. Model Local Rule G-10.
- 4 - GROOVES SPECIFICATIONS:** Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect, except as modified by the applicable championship Entry Application. Model Local Rule G-2.
- 5 - CLUB BROKEN OR SIGNIFICANTLY DAMAGED:** If a player’s club is broken or significantly damaged during the round by the player or caddie, except in cases of abuse, the player may replace the club with any club under Rule 4.1b(4). When replacing a club, the player must immediately take the broken or significantly damaged club out of play, using the procedure in Rule 4.1c(1). 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 only scratched), the clubhead is visibly and significantly deformed, the clubhead is detached or loose from the shaft, or the grip is loose. A club face or clubhead is not “broken or significantly damaged” solely because it is cracked.
- 6- TRANSPORTATION:** Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule G-6, unless otherwise noted on the Notice to Players.
- 7 - FOOTWEAR:** It is a condition of all USGA qualifying events that shoes with traditionally designed spikes (regardless of composition, i.e., ceramic, plastic, etc.) or spikes, regardless of design, comprised either entirely or partially of metal (if such metal may come in contact with the course) are prohibited during the stipulated round. Penalty: DISQUALIFICATION.
- 8 - OFFICIAL TIME:** The official time is located only at the starting tees.
- 9 - OUT OF BOUNDS:** Defined by the line between the course-side points, at ground level, of white stakes and fence posts. When out of bounds is defined by a white line on the ground, the line itself is out of bounds. A ball coming to rest on or crossing any public road is considered out of bounds, even if it comes to rest on another part of the golf course.
- 10 – 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. ***When taking back on the line relief from a penalty area, the reference point must be outside that penalty area.***
- 11 – BACK-ON-THE-LINE RELIEF:** For a ball played from outside a relief area when taking back-on-the-line relief, Model Local Rule E-12 is in effect.
- 12 - GROUND UNDER REPAIR:** Defined by white lines. French drains are ground under repair. The white lines are considered in ground under repair.
- 13 – RELIEF FROM SEAMS OF CUT TURF:** Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule F-7.
- 14 - WHITE-LINED AREAS TYING INTO ARTIFICIALLY SURFACED ROADS AND PATHS:** White-lined areas of ground under repair and the artificially surfaced roads, paths or other identified obstructions such as curbing, walls, steps, drains, and permanent structures that they are connected to or abutting, are a single abnormal ground condition when taking relief under Rule 16.1.
- 15 – AERATION HOLES:** In the General Area, a ball that comes to rest in or on an aeration hole may be lifted, without penalty, cleaned and dropped, within the relief area and not nearer the hole in the General Area. All aeration holes are treated as the same hole for re-dropping purposes.
- 16 - INTEGRAL OBJECTS:** Include cables, rods, wires and wrappings when closely attached to trees; and artificial walls and pilings when located in penalty areas or in or adjacent to bunkers. 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.
- 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 DZ. The line itself is in the dropping zone.
- 18 - STAKED TREES:** If lie of ball, stance, and/or area of intended swing is interfered with by the stake attached to a tree, the stake and/or rope/wire is treated as an abnormal course condition. Relief without penalty from the tree itself is not permitted.
- 19 - TEMPORARY IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS:** Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule F-23.  
(Under this Rule, relief from fans may be taken on either side.)
- 20 - ELEVATED OVERHEAD POWER LINES AND CABLES:** If it is known or virtually certain that a player’s ball hit a power line (or tower or a wire or pole supporting a power line) during the play of any 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. for what to do).
- 21 - PRACTICE:** Prior to and after a round in stroke play, a player may practice on the designated practice areas. Rule 5.2b covering practice in stroke play is modified in this way: A player may not practice on the competition course before or between rounds. Penalty for breach of Local Rule, see Rule 5.2.
- 22 - LIMITING WHEN STROKE MADE FROM PUTTING GREEN MUST BE REPLAYED UNDER EXCEPTION 2 to RULE 11.1b:** Local Rule as prescribed in the Clarifications to the 2019 Rules of Golf is in effect. Model Local Rule D-7.
- 23 - PACE OF PLAY:** GSGA Pace of Play Policy is in effect. See separate memorandum to players for pace of play policy.
- 24 - STOPPING AND RESUMING PLAY:** Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule J-1. 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.
- 25 - RESULT OF THE COMPETITION:** When all the scores have been approved by the Georgia State Golf Association Rules Committee, the result of the competition is deemed to have been officially announced.