



2015 LOCAL RULES & CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION

The Rules of the United States Golf Association govern play, as modified by the South Central PGA. The following Local Rules and Conditions of Competition apply and may be found in the current Appendix 1 of the USGA Rules of Golf as referenced on page numbers below. See applicable competition's "Notice to Competitors (Players)" for additional Definitions, Local Rules, and Conditions.

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

SECTION A: LOCAL RULES

1. Out of Bounds – Rule 27.

A ball which crosses a road defined as out of bounds and comes to rest beyond that road is out of bounds, even though it may lie on another part of the course

2. Water Hazards and Lateral Water Hazards – Rule 26.

Dropping Zones: If it is known or virtually certain that a player's ball is in a water hazard and a Drop Zone is specified on the applicable "Notice to Competitors (Players)" for that water hazard, the player may, as an additional option, drop a ball, under penalty of one stroke, in the Dropping Zone specified on the applicable "Notice to Competitors (Players)".

3. Abnormal Ground Conditions – Rule 25.

Ground Under Repair.

- a. Defined by areas completely circled in white lines, except drop zones.
- b. French drains filled with stones.
- c. Fire ant mounds or beds. For a ball in a water hazard, relief for fire ant mounds or beds is provided by Decision 1-4/10.
- d. Seams of cut turf – page 129.

4. Embedded Ball Through the Green – page 127.

5. Immovable Obstructions – Rule 24.

- a. White lined areas tying into obstructions are deemed to have the same status as the obstruction and are not ground under repair.
- b. Landscaped or garden areas (flowerbeds, shrubberies or the like) completely encircled by an obstruction are part of the obstruction.
- c. Roads or paths surfaced with wood chips or mulch, the individual pieces of wood chips or mulch are loose impediments.
- d. When railroad ties, curbing or the like adjoin artificially surfaced roads or paths, they are deemed to be part of the road or path.
- e. When the outside edge (non-golf course side) of a road or path defines out of bounds, the road or path is an immovable obstruction.
- f. Stakes; ropes; wires; or other objects supporting trees or tree limbs, provided they are not closely attached, are obstructions.

6. Stones in Bunkers – Page 130.

Stones in bunkers are movable obstructions (Rule 24-1 applies).

7. Turf Plugs on Putting Green – Rule 16-1c.

Turf plugs on putting green have the same status as old hole plugs and may be repaired as provided in Rule 16-1c.

8. Integral Parts of the Course.

- a. Wrappings, wires, cables and other objects when closely attached to trees or objects defining out of bounds.
- b. Artificial walls and/or pilings when located within water hazards.
- c. Artificial walls and/or pilings when used to define the margin of bunkers are integral parts of the course and are through the green.

9. Permanent Elevated Power Lines or Cables.

If a ball strikes a permanent elevated power line or cable, the stroke must be canceled and replayed, without penalty (See Rule 20-5). If the ball is not immediately recoverable another ball may be substituted. (For temporary power lines or cables see Item 7 Temporary Obstructions).

10. Temporary Obstructions – Pages 131-135.

11. Distance-Measuring Devices (Note to Rule 14-3) – Page 136.

A player may obtain distance information by using a device that measures distance only. If, during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance-measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure conditions that might affect his play (e.g., gradient, wind speed, temperature, etc.) the player is in breach of Rule 14-3, for which penalty is disqualification, regardless of whether any such additional function is actually used.

12. Player Listens to Music or Broadcast During Round – Decision 14-3/17.

Rules Addendum Adopted by SCPGA

In light of Decision 14-3/17, during a stipulated round, a player listening to music or other broadcasts by traditional radio or any PDA equipment is deemed to be using an artificial device or unusual equipment “that might assist him in making a stroke or in his play.”

If, during a stipulated round, a player does use an artificial device or unusual equipment “that might assist him in making a stroke or in his play”, he will be notified by a SCPGA Rules Official that any time he does so again he will be in breach of the Condition.

*Penalty for listening to music or other broadcasts during the stipulated round in breach of Rule 14-3:

Match Play– At the conclusion of the hole at which the breach is discovered, the state of the match is adjusted by deduction one hole for each hole at which the breach occurred; maximum deduction per round – Two holes

Stroke Play– Two strokes for each hole at which any breach occurred; maximum penalty per round – Four strokes (two strokes at each of the first two holes at which any breach occurred).

*Upon discovery that a breach has occurred, the artificial device or unusual equipment must be turned off immediately and not be turned back on. If a player fails to do so, and plays another stroke with the equipment operating, he is disqualified.

13. Weather Information Accessed on Multi-Functional Device – Decision 14-3/18.

SECTION B: CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION

1. Specification of Equipment:

- a. Only drivers with a clubhead, identified by model and loft, on the most current USGA List of Conforming Driver Heads – Pages 137-138.
- b. Only brands and models of golf balls named on the most current USGA List of Conforming Golf Balls may be used. (Note to Rule 5-1) – Page 138.
- c. One Ball Condition is in effect, except for amateurs in Pro-Am competitions. Pages 138-139.

- d. Grooves and/or Punch Marks: The player's clubs must conform to the groove and punch mark specifications in the Rules of Golf that are effective from January 1, 2010. This condition is not in effect for amateurs in Pro-Am competitions.

NOTE: The exception to Decision 4-1/1 is NOT in effect.

2. Pace of Play (Note 2 to Rule 6-7) – Page 140.

See posted SCPGA Pace of Play Guidelines for pace of play penalties.

3. Suspension of Play Due to a Dangerous Situation (Note to Rule 6-8b) – Pages 140-141.

Players must discontinue play immediately and not resume play until the Rules Committee has ordered a resumption of play. Penalty: Disqualification.

All practice areas are closed during suspension for a dangerous situation until the Rules Committee has declared them open for use. Players who disregard such closing are subject to disciplinary action by the SCPGA Tournament Committee.

NOTE: A suspension and resumption of play will be signaled by:

Discontinue Play Immediately: One prolonged signal note.

Discontinue Play: Three consecutive short signal notes.

Resume Play: Two short signal notes.

4. Practice – Page 141.

Prior to a stipulated round in stroke play, a player may only practice on the designated practice areas. Between the play of two holes, a player must not make any practice stroke on or near the putting green of the hole last played and must not test the surface of the putting green of the hole last played by rolling a ball. (Note 2 to Rule 7). Rule 7-1a covers practice before the stipulated round in match play.

Note: This condition does not apply if the stipulated round is a Pro-Am and the round does not count in the official competition or in any Match Play competition.

5. How to Decide Ties.

Stroke Play:

In the event of a tie for first place, there will be a hole-by-hole playoff to determine the winner immediately following the last stipulated round.

Match Play:

In the event a match ends “all square”, the match will be played off hole-by-hole until one side wins a hole. The play off shall start on the hole where the match began.

Team Play:

In all team events, should two or more teams tie for first position, all teams tied will be declared Co-Champions. Teams tying for other positions will share equally with others posting the same score.

6. Scoring Area.

The scoring area may include, but is not limited to tents or rooms. A player's score card has been returned to the Committee when the player has returned the score card and has exited the defined scoring area with both feet, unless the player verbally informs the scoring official that he needs to leave the scoring area and will immediately return.

7. Close of Competition.

The competition is closed when all scores have been validated in the scoring system and approved by the Rules Committee. In the event of a playoff, the event shall be deemed to have closed when the playoff scores have been approved by the Rules Committee.

8. Pro-Am Competition – Score Card.

The professional player is the marker and scoring is according to Rule 31-3, unless otherwise provided in the competition's “Notice to Competitors”. The score card shall be signed by the professional player and attested by one of the amateur partners. Penalties only apply to the professional player.

DEFINITION OF OUT OF POSITION: The first group to start will be considered out of position if, at any time during the round, they exceed the time allotted to play, as detailed on the applicable Pace of Play Time Chart.

Any subsequent groups will be considered out of position if, at any time during the round, they (a) exceed the allotted time to play and (b) reach a par-3 hole that is open and free of play or fail to clear the tee of a par-4 or par-5 hole before that hole is open and free to play. Both (a) and (b) must apply for a group to be out of position.

NOTE: The Rules Committee reserves the right to time a group when the Rules Committee deems it necessary. Further, if a player is determined by the Rules Committee to be unreasonably slow he may be timed individually at the Rules Committee's discretion, regardless of whether his group is out of position.

TIMING: When the Rules Committee determines that a group or an individual will be timed, all players in the group, or the specific individual, will be informed they are being timed. A group or an individual will be informed after leaving the teeing ground and before any further strokes. Timing will discontinue when the group has regained its position. Any timing exceeding the allotted time to play will be carried over for the remainder of the round.

Other than on the putting green, the timing of a player's stroke will begin when it is his turn to play and he can play without interference or distraction. Time spent determining yardage will count as time taken for the next stroke.

On the putting green, timing will begin after the player has been allowed a reasonable amount of time to mark, lift, clean and replace his ball, repair his ball mark and other ball marks on his line of putt and remove loose impediments on his line of putt. Time spent looking at the line from beyond the hole and/or behind the ball will count as time taken for that stroke.

NOTE: A player is permitted 40 seconds to play a stroke, and an extra 20 seconds (for a total of 60 seconds) will be allowed for: (a) the first player to play a stroke on a par-3 hole; (b) the first player to play a second stroke on a par-4 or par-5 hole; (c) the first player to play a third stroke on a par-5 hole; (d) the first player to play around the putting green; and (e) the first player to play on the putting green.

PENALTIES: Any player in a group being timed, who exceeds the applicable time to play a stroke, will be informed as soon as practicable and is subject to the following penalties in Stroke Play/Match Play competitions:

FIRST OFFENSE: Warning/Warning

SECOND OFFENSE: One (1) Stroke Penalty/ One (1) Stroke Penalty

THIRD OFFENSE: Two (2) Stroke Penalty/Loss of Hole

FOURTH OFFENSE: Disqualification/Disqualification

SOUTH CENTRAL PGA RULES COMMITTEE

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