



# PGA

Middle Atlantic Section

## LOCAL RULES AND CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION FOR MAPGA TOURNAMENTS

The Rules of the United States Golf Association govern play, subject to changes or amendments by the MAPGA Rules Committee. See applicable Tournament or qualifying round *Notice to Competitors/Players* and *Entry Information (Website)* for additional Local Rules and Conditions. Complete text of Rules and Appendix I may be found in the current "Rules of Golf."

Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule or Condition is: *Match Play – Loss of hole; Stroke Play – Two strokes.*

### LOCAL RULES

**OUT OF BOUNDS** (Rule 27-1) - Defined by white stakes and/or property fences. When the inside edge of a road or curb defines out of bounds, a ball which crosses such a boundary and comes to rest beyond that boundary is out of bounds even though it may lie on another part of the course.

**WATER AND LATERAL WATER HAZARDS** (Rule 26) -

**Water hazards** are identified by yellow stakes and defined by yellow lines. **Lateral water hazards** are identified by red stakes and defined by red lines.

If no lines and/or stakes are present, the margin should be the natural margin of the hazard.

When a lateral water hazard is defined on only one side, it is deemed to extend to infinity.

When water and lateral water hazards are bounded by out of bounds, the hazard margin extends to and coincides with the out of bounds line.

**GROUND UNDER REPAIR** – Defined by white lines. Rule 25-1. French drains and fire ant hills are deemed to be ground under repair even if unmarked. (Note: For a Player whose ball is in a water hazard and is affected by a fire ant hill – see Decision 1-4/10.)

**SEAMS OF CUT TURF** – Through the green, seams of cut turf (not the turf itself) are deemed to be ground under repair. However, interference by a seam with a player's stance is deemed not to be, of itself, interference under Rule 25-1. If the ball lies in or touches the seam or the seam interferes with the area of intended swing, relief is available under Rule 25-1. All seams within the cut turf area are considered the same seam.

**EMBEDDED BALL THROUGH THE GREEN** – Local Rule as prescribed in Appendix I (Part A) is in effect.

**AERATION HOLES** – Local Rule as prescribed in Appendix I (Part A) is in effect.

**DISTANCE MEASURING DEVICES** – In this competition, a player may obtain distance information by use of a distance-measuring device. If, during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance-measuring device to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his play (e.g., elevation changes, wind speed, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 14-3.

**ACCIDENTAL MOVEMENT OF A BALL ON A PUTTING GREEN** – Rules 18-2, 18-3 and 20-1 are modified as follows: When a player's ball lies on the putting green, there is no penalty if the ball or ball-marker is accidentally moved by the player, his partner, his opponent, or any of their caddies or equipment. The moved ball or ball-marker must be replaced as provided in Rules 18-2, 18-3 and 20-1. This Local Rule applies only when the player's ball or ball-marker lies on the putting green and any movement is accidental. Note: If it is determined that a player's ball on the putting green was moved as a result of wind, water or some other natural cause such as the effects of gravity, the ball must be played as it lies from its new location. A ball-marker moved in such circumstances is replaced.

**GROOVE AROUND BED** – Through the green, any groove around the perimeter of a bed (e.g. a flower bed, mulch bed) is ground under repair. However, interference by a groove with the player's stance is deemed not to be, of itself, interference under Rule 25-1. If the ball lies in or touches

the groove or the groove interferes with the area of intended swing, relief is available under Rule 25.1. (The exception under Rule 25-1 applies.)

**OBSTRUCTIONS** – White lined areas tying into obstructions or artificially surfaced roads or paths are declared to have the same status as the obstruction, road or path and are not ground under repair. When railroad ties, curbing or the like adjoin cart paths, they are deemed to be part of the same obstruction. Areas completely encircled by an obstruction are part of the obstruction. Relief, without penalty, is provided under Rule 24-2b(i). Stones in bunkers are movable obstructions (Rule 24-1 applies)

**INTEGRAL PARTS OF THE COURSE** – include wrappings, wires, cables or rods when closely attached to trees; artificial walls and pilings when located in hazards, unless otherwise provided for in the *Notice to Competitors/Players*.

**REPAIR TO PUTTING GREEN** – Damage that is clearly identifiable as having been caused by animal hoofs may be repaired, but only on the putting green. Turf plugs on the putting green of any size or shape may be repaired in accordance with Rule 16-1 c.

**PERMANENT ELEVATED POWER LINES AND 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 and or cables, see Temporary Immovable Obstructions below)

**TEMPORARY IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS** – Local Rule as prescribed in Appendix I (Part A) is in effect. Unless otherwise indicated, all air circulation (greenside) fans as well as any poles, cables, etc. are Temporary Immovable Obstructions.

### CONDITIONS OF THE COMPETITION

**CONFORMING DRIVER HEADS** Any driver the player carries must have a clubhead, identified by model and loft that is named on the current List of Conforming Drive Heads issued by the USGA.

**Exception:** A drive with a clubhead that was manufactured prior to 1999 is exempt from this condition.

**CONFORMING GOLF BALLS** (Note to Rule 5-1) – The ball the player uses must be named on the current List of Conforming Golf Balls issued by the USGA. Penalty for breach of condition – *Disqualification*

**GROOVE AND PUNCH MARK** 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

**PACE OF PLAY** (Note 2 to Rule 6-7) – See separate memorandum to players for MAPGA pace of play guidelines and penalties.

**SUSPENSION OF PLAY** – Optional Condition as prescribed in Appendix I (Part B) is in effect. When play is suspended by the Committee for a dangerous situation, if the players in a match or group are between the play of two holes, they must not resume play until the Committee has ordered a resumption of play. If they are in the process of playing a hole, they must discontinue play immediately and not resume play until the committee has ordered a resumption of play. If a player fails to discontinue immediately, he/she is disqualified, unless circumstances warrant waiving the penalty as provided by Rule 33-7. All practice areas are closed during suspension for a dangerous situation until the Committee has declared them open. A player using such practice areas might be subject to a penalty of disqualification.

**Note:** A suspension for a dangerous situation will be signaled by one prolonged siren or airhorn note. All other types of suspension will be signaled by three consecutive airhorn notes, repeated. Resumption of play will be signaled by two short airhorn notes, repeated.

**CLOSE OF COMPETITION** – The competition is deemed to have closed 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 Rules of Golf require that a player shall at all times play without undue delay. The following pace of play policy will be enforced at all MAPGA Section/Chapter events.

### a. Subject to Being Timed (SBT)

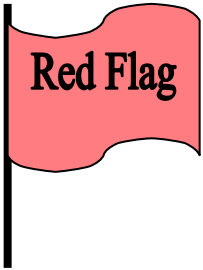
The first group to start will *be subject to being time (SBT)* if, at any time during the round, they exceed the time allotted to play, as detailed on the applicable course's pace of play time chart. Any subsequent group, or in the case of a shotgun start, any group, will be *SBT* if, at any time during the round, they (a.) exceed the allotted time to play **AND** (b.) are *out of position*.

#### **Out of Position:**

A group is out of position if: it has not played a stroke from any teeing ground of a par three before all players in the preceding group have played a stroke from the next teeing ground(s); it has not played a stroke from any teeing ground of a par four before the preceding group has finished the hole and replaced the flagstick; it has not played a stroke from any teeing ground of a par five before any player in the preceding group has executed a putt (i.e. a stroke from the green) on that par five.

**NOTE:** It is the player's responsibility to know if his/her group is *SBT*. Players are encouraged to ask officials if their group is *SBT* whenever a player is unsure of his/her group's status. A group's status is always in relation to the group in front of it. The location or time of any group behind the group in question is irrelevant.

### b. Monitoring Group



When a group is *SBT*, a rules official will place a red flag on the tee, to notify the group that they are *SBT*. **The group will remain *SBT* until it is under the allotted time par, is no longer out of position, or is informed by a rules official that it is no longer *SBT*. The group is expected to play at a pace that will either regain its position OR, bring the group under the allotted time to play. In stroke play only, players are encouraged to play ready golf.** A rules official will monitor and time the players individually as set forth below. Once timing has started, a rules official will stay with that group until the group is no longer *SBT*, or as long as practical. If a bad time is incurred by any individual player in the group, the official will inform that competitor as soon as practical after the bad time

### c. Timing

The timing of a player's stroke will begin when it is his/her turn to play and he/she can play without interference or distraction. A player is allocated a maximum of 45 seconds per stroke. Any time spent determining yardages, line of play or putt, or club selection, etc. **will** count as time taken for the next stroke.

On the putting green, timing will begin after a player has been allowed a reasonable amount of time to mark, lift, clean and replace the ball, repair his/her ball mark and other ball marks on the line of putt, and remove loose impediments on the line of putt. This does not mean that timing will begin after a player has done all these things, but that it will begin once a reasonable amount of time has passed to accomplish these things.

**NOTE:** An extra 5 seconds will be allowed for: (a.) the first player to play a stroke on a hole, (b.) the first player to play a second stroke on a par-4 or par-5, (c.) the first player to play a third stroke on a par-5 hole (provided it is not played from on or around the putting green), and (d.) the first player to play on or around the putting green.

### d. Penalties

First Bad Time – Verbal warning.

Second Bad Time – One stroke penalty.

Third Bad Time – Two stroke penalty (total of three strokes).

Fourth Bad Time – Disqualification.

Note 1: Bad times and any penalties will apply to the team in Foursome and Scramble type events, but to the individual in Four-Ball type events.

Note 2: Bad time(s) will remain with the team or player for the remainder of the stipulated round.

Note 3: A Player is not exempt from penalty under Rule 6-7 simply because he/she takes less than the allotted time to complete a stroke, hole or round.

### e. Administration

The administration of the Middle Atlantic PGA Pace of Play Policy shall be handled by the on-site Competition Committee. Any appeal of a penalty must be referred to the on-site Competition Committee before the competitor leaves the scoring area and the decision of the Competition Committee will be final.