

2023 MAPGA Local Rules and Terms of the Competition

The Rules of Golf govern play, except as modified below by the MAPGA. The following Local Rules and Terms of the Competition apply 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 or amendments.

Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule is: Match Play – Loss of Hole Stroke Play – Two Strokes

1. Out of Bounds – Rule 18.2. (see MLR A-3)

A ball coming to rest on or beyond the road is out of bounds, even if it comes to rest on another part of the course that is in bounds for other holes.

2. Penalty Areas — 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. Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule B-2.2.

3. Abnormal Course Conditions – Rule 16.1.

a. Ground Under Repair:

- i. Areas completely encircled with white lines.
- ii. French drains, which are trenches filled with rocks or stones.
- iii. Aeration holes in General Area or on Putting Green – Model Local Rule E-4.
- iv. Seams of cut turf – Model Local Rule F-7.
- v. A hole made by a movable obstruction (stakes, signs, tables, chairs or the like) may be treated as Ground Under Repair by the Committee. But interference does not exist if the hole only interferes with the player's stance.
- b. Immovable Obstructions:
 - i. White lined areas tying into an obstruction are treated as a single abnormal course condition,
 - ii. When landscaped garden areas (flower beds, shrubbery, or the like) are completely encircled by an obstruction, the obstruction and landscaped area are treated as one abnormal course condition.
 - iii. Roads or paths surfaced with wood chips, gravel, or mulch; the individual pieces of wood chips, gravel, or mulch are loose impediments.
 - iv. When railroad ties, curbing or the like adjoin roads and paths, they are deemed to be part of the same abnormal course condition.

c. Removal of Temporary Water:

Model Local Rule J-2 is in effect. If a ball lies on the putting green and there is interference by temporary water on the putting green, the player may:

- i. Proceed under Rule 16.1.
- ii. Have their line of play squeegeed, if available

Note: Such squeegeeing should be done across the line of play and extend a reasonable distance beyond the hole and only be carried out by individuals designated by the Committee. The Committee may squeegee the putting green at any time.

4. Integral Objects

- a. Bunker Liners – The Committee may treat an exposed liner as ground under repair under Rule 16.1, but interference does not exist if the liner only interferes with the player's stance.
- b. The portion of wrappings, wires, cables, and other objects when closely attached to trees or objects defining Out of Bounds.
- c. Artificial retaining walls and/or pilings when located within penalty areas.

5. Temporary Immovable Obstructions (TIO's) – Model Local Rule F-23. Includes tents, signs and other temporary immovable obstructions (which will be listed on the event's NTP) installed for the Competition.

6. Specifications of Clubs and the Ball

- a. List of Conforming Driver Heads – Model Local Rule G-1 is in effect. Penalty for making a stroke with club in breach of this Local Rule – Disqualification.

- b. Groove and Punch Mark – The player's club must conform to the groove and punch mark specifications in the Rules of Golf that are effective from January 1, 2010.
- c. List of Conforming Golf Balls – Model Local Rule G-3 is in effect. Penalty for making a stroke with a ball in breach of this Local Rule – Disqualification.
- d. The "One Ball Rule" is not in effect.

7. Prohibiting Use of Certain Types of Shoes

During a round, a player must not wear shoes with:

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

8. Pace of Play – Rule 5.6b (3).

See posted MAPGA Pace of Play Guidelines for pace of play and penalties.

9. Stopping Play; Resuming Play – Rule 5.7

Model Local Rule J-1 is in effect as follows:

- a. Immediate Suspension (Dangerous situation): One prolonged note of the air horn.
- b. Normal Suspension (Non-Dangerous situation): Three short notes of the air horn.
- c. Resume Play: Two short notes of the air horn.

Note: During an immediate suspension for a dangerous situation, all practice areas are closed until the Committee has declared them open. Players who disregard such closing are subject to disciplinary action.

TERMS OF THE COMPETITION

10. When Result of Competition is Final

The competition is final when all scores have been 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.

11. Code of Conduct

By signing an official entry form, registering online, or verbally committing to compete in an MAPGA event, the player agrees to abide by the prescribed Rules of Conduct that can be found in Section 1 Article VI of the MAPGA Tournament Rules & Regulations. Violations of the Rules of Conduct can result in a fine and/or loss of playing privileges.

12. Model Local Rule F-5

"Relief from interference by an immovable obstruction may be taken under Rule 16.1.

The player also has these extra options to take relief when such immovable obstructions are close to the putting green and on the line of play:

Ball in General Area. The player may take relief under Rule 16.1b if an immovable obstruction is:

On the line of play, and is:

- Within two club-lengths of the putting green, and
- Within two club-lengths of the ball.

Exception – No Relief If Line of Play Clearly Unreasonable. There is no relief under this Local Rule if the player chooses a line of play that is clearly unreasonable.

13. Model Local Rule L-1

If a player returns a scorecard without the hole scores being certified either by the player, the marker, or both, the player get a general penalty.