



## 2022 Spring NCCGA Nationals

Hot Springs Country Club & Hot Springs Village  
Hot Springs, Arkansas  
April 22-24, 2022

Play is governed by the Rules of Golf effective January 2019, and where applicable, by the following Local Rules and Terms of the Competition. Committee Procedures refers to the Committee Procedures section in the current *Official Guide to the Rules of Golf*. The *Committee* refers to the PGA of America Rules Committee. Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule in *stroke play* is the *general penalty* (two penalty strokes).

**1. OUT OF BOUNDS AND COURSE BOUNDARIES:** *Out of Bounds* is defined by the line between the *course-side* points at ground level of white stakes and fence posts. **Note:** A ball coming to rest on or beyond a 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.

**2. PUTTING GREENS LIMITING WHEN STROKE MADE FROM PUTTING GREEN MUST BE REPLAYED UNDER EXCEPTION 2 TO RULE 11.1b:** Exception 2 to Rule 11.1b applies, except that when a ball played from the *putting green* accidentally hits the player, the club used by the player to make the *stroke*, or an *animal* (defined as a *loose impediment*), that is, worms, insects, and similar *animals* that can be removed easily) the *stroke* counts and the ball must be played as it lies.

**3. BALL PLAYED FROM OUTSIDE RELIEF AREA WHEN TAKING BACK-ON-THE-LINE RELIEF:** When taking Back-On-the-Line relief, there is no additional penalty if a player plays a ball that was dropped in the relief area required by the relevant Rule (Rule 16.1c(2), 17.1d(2), 19.2b or 19.3b) but came to rest outside the relief area, so long as the ball, when played, is within one club-length of where it first touched the ground when dropped. This exemption from penalty applies even if the ball is played from nearer the hole than the reference point (but not if played from nearer the hole than the spot of the original ball or the estimated point where the ball last crossed the edge of the penalty area).

This Local Rule does not change the procedure for taking Back-On-the-Line relief under a relevant Rule. This means that the reference point and relief area are not changed by this Local Rule and that Rule 14.3c(2) can be applied by a player who drops a ball in the right way and it comes to rest outside the relief area, whether this occurs on the first or second drop.

### 4. ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITIONS AND INTEGRAL OBJECTS

#### a. Ground Under Repair:

- i) Any area **encircled by a white line** (except dropping zones or *out of bounds*).
- ii) **Newly trenched areas**, including grass-covered cables.
- iii) **French drains**, which are trenches filled with rocks or stones.
- iv) 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 in the *general area*, the player may take relief under Rule 16.1b. **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 within one club-length of the reference point.
- v) **Painted lines or dots** in a part of the *general area* cut to fairway height or less.

**But** interference does not exist if the painted lines or dots interfere **only** with the player's *stance*.

#### b. Immovable Obstructions:

- i) **Asphalt and artificially surfaced roads and paths.** White lined areas of *ground under repair* tying into such roads or paths are treated as a single *abnormal course condition* when taking relief under Rule 16.1.
- ii) **Railroad ties, curbing** or other similar artificial edges adjoining cart paths are part of the same *obstruction*.
- iii) **Secured mats and plastic cable ramps** covering cables.

**c. Immovable Obstructions Close To Putting Greens:** For a ball in the *general area*, relief is allowed only when both the ball and the *immovable obstruction* lie in an area cut to fairway height or less. The player may take relief under Rule 16.1b if an *immovable obstruction* is: 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.

#### d. Integral Objects (Free relief not allowed):

- i) **Artificial retaining walls** and/or pilings when located in *penalty areas*.
- ii) **Wires, cables, wrappings, signs and lightning rods** closely attached to either trees or objects defining *out of bounds*.
- iii) **Bunker liners** in their intended position.

**Note:** The *Committee* may treat an exposed liner, not in its intended position, to be *ground under repair*, but interference does not exist if a liner **only** interferes with the player's *stance*.

### 5. RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF SPECIFIC EQUIPMENT

**a. List of Conforming Driver Heads:** Any driver the player uses to make a *stroke* must have a clubhead, identified by model and loft, which is on the current "List of Conforming Driver Heads" issued by the USGA.

### Penalty for making a **Stroke with Club in Breach of this Local Rule: Disqualification.**

There is no penalty under this Local Rule for carrying, but not making a *stroke* with a driver that is not on the "List of Conforming Driver Heads" (See Model Local Rule G-1 in Committee Procedures).

**b. Groove and Punch Mark Specifications:** In making a *stroke*, the player must use clubs that conform to the groove and punch mark specifications in the *Equipment Rules* that took effect on 1 January 2010. Ping Eye 2 irons manufactured before 31 March 1990 with a groove spacing to groove width ratio of 2.3 to 1 are allowed for play under the Rules of Golf, even when this Local Rule is in effect (See Model Local Rule G-2 in Committee Procedures).

### Penalty for making a **Stroke with Club in Breach of this Local Rule: Disqualification.**

There is no penalty under this Local Rule for carrying, but not making a *stroke* with a club which does not conform to these groove and punch mark specifications.

**c. List of Conforming Golf Balls:** Any ball used in making a *stroke* must be on the current "List of Conforming Golf Balls" issued by the USGA. This list is posted at the starting tees and is regularly updated and can be found at [www.usga.org](http://www.usga.org).

### Penalty for Making a **Stroke at a Ball Not on Current List in Breach of this Local Rule: Disqualification.**

**d. Replacement of a Club that is Broken or Significantly Damaged:** Rule 4.1b(3) is modified in this way: 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). For the purposes of this Local Rule:

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 the club face is only scratched)
- the clubhead is visibly and significantly deformed
- the clubhead is detached or loose from the shaft, or
- the grip is loose.

**Exception:** A club face or clubhead is not "broken or significantly damaged" solely because it is cracked.

Penalty for Breach of Local Rule – See Rule 4.1b.

### 6. RESTRICTIONS ON PRACTICE

**a. Before or Between Rounds:** Rule 5.2 is modified in this way: A player must not practice on the competition *course* before or between *rounds*.

#### Penalty for Breach of this Local Rule:

**Penalty for first breach: General Penalty** (applied to the player's first hole).

**Penalty for second breach: Disqualification.**

**b. Between the Play of Two Holes:** A player must not make any practice *stroke* on or near the *putting green* of the hole just completed or test the surface of that *putting green* by rubbing the *putting green* or rolling a ball.

### 7. PROCEDURES FOR BAD WEATHER AND SUSPENSIONS OF PLAY

**a. Methods for Stopping and Resuming Play:** A suspension of play for a **dangerous situation** will be signaled by **one prolonged note** of a siren or horn. **All other suspensions** will be signaled by **three consecutive notes** of a siren or horn. In either case, **resumption of play** will be signaled by **two short notes** of a siren or horn. See Rule 5.7b.

**Note:** All practice areas are **closed** during an immediate suspension for a **dangerous situation** until the *Committee* has declared them open.

**b. Removal of Temporary Water on the Putting Green:** If a player's ball lies on the *putting green* and there is interference by *temporary water* on the *putting green* the player may:

- Take free relief under Rule 16-1d or
- Have their *line of play* squeegee

Such squeegeeing should be done across the *line of play* and extend a reasonable distance beyond the *hole* (that is at least one roller length) and only be carried out by individuals designated by the *Committee*.

**Note:** The *Committee* may squeegee the *putting green* at any time.

**8. COMMITTEE PACE OF PLAY POLICY:** See Rule 5.6b(3). The Local Rule setting a Pace of Play Policy, including penalties for not following this Policy, is published and posted at the starting tees.

**9. STARTING POINT DEFINED:** For the purpose of applying Rule 5.3a, the **starting point** for hole #1 and hole #10 is defined by the rope, gallery stakes, within 15 feet of the Starter's Table, and/or blue stakes, blue dots or blue lines.

**10. RETURNING SCORECARD:** For the purpose of applying Rule 3.3b(2), a player's *scorecard* is treated as returned when the player has first left the scoring area with both feet.

**11. MEASURING CONDITION OF PUTTING GREENS:** Before or between *rounds* on any day of the competition or play-off, a player or *caddie* must not use any device that measures the condition (slope, texture, firmness, or moisture level) of any *putting green* on the *course*. The use of such a device is only permitted on practice days.

**12. WHEN THE RESULT OF THE COMPETITION IS FINAL:** When all scores have been posted on the official scoreboard and approved by the *Committee*, the competition is closed.