



## Rules Questions - Matt Weinberger (513-277-9992)

### **Notice to Players**

Play is governed by the Rules of Golf effective January 2019, and where applicable, by the following Local Rules, Hard Card, 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 Staff on-site and designated rules officials - Starters and other course staff are **not** part of the committee. Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule in stroke play is the general penalty (two penalty strokes).

#### **Championship & Local Rules:** Additional rules may be announced prior to the start of a Round

1. Tee Markers - Final yardages will be visible on the scorecard prior to the start of each round. The following tee marker colors will be utilized but will be moved to the final yardages:
  - a. Men's Open - Stadium (Black), Celebrity (Cabernet), Players (Cabernet)
  - b. Senior Men (50-59) - Stadium (Blue), Firecliff (Purple), Players (Cabernet)
  - c. Champion Men (60+) - Stadium (White), Firecliff (Tan), Players (Cabernet)
2. Distance measuring devices and/or phone apps will be permitted during practice and Championship rounds (no slope)
3. Caddies are subject to all official [Caddie Rules](#)
4. Two carts have been assigned per group for competitors. Caddies are permitted to ride in the cart if there is an open seat in a cart
5. Spectator Policy - Required to stay on the cart paths
6. Each division represents its own championship. No partial scores will be taken if all competitors do not complete a round. If all competitors do not complete round 1 or round 2 by the end of the day, every effort will be made to make up the remaining holes the following morning. If play is not able to be completed for a round, the championship will be shortened to either 36 or 18 holes. If a round cannot be made up by the following morning, the next round will take place on the originally scheduled course by division. The Committee has the authority to change the competition courses based on extenuating circumstances
7. Awards
  - a. Each division has awards for the top 5 individuals. Top 5 players and ties from all divisions qualify for the next PGA National Club Championship
8. Playoff Procedures
  - a. Medalist Playoff - a sudden death playoff will be conducted for all players that are tied. Playoff hole rotation will be announced prior to the start of the playoff and order of play will be determined by lot. In the event a playoff cannot occur, co-Medalists will be awarded
  - b. Individual Tiebreaker - All other individual ties will remain and not be broken by a tie breaking procedure

#### Local Rules

- There are no drop areas in effect
- Local rules from the course stock scorecards are not in effect
- No model local rules are in effect except what is explicitly stated in the Notice to Players or Hard Card (e.g. the optional model local rule which allows players to drop a ball in the fairway after hitting out of bounds with a 2 shot penalty is not in effect).
- Bunkers are defined as a specially prepared area of sand, which is often a hollow from which turf or soil was removed. Desert areas are part of the General Area and do not have rakes (players may ground their clubs in the desert). There is no embedded ball relief in the desert
- The Stadium Course, due to the PGA TOUR event, intentionally does not have painted lines to mark penalty areas. The outer edge of the wood defines the edge of the Red Penalty Area. Red stakes are placed to identify the Red Penalty Area status. On the Stadium Course rocks around the water are also considered part of the Red Penalty Area (see hole 10)
- Structures built for the AMEX PGA Tour event are Temporary Immovable Obstructions and receive additional line of sight relief
- Hole 6 on Players has on-course out of bounds left of the pond. The OB stakes have no status while playing hole 5.
- All wooden railroad ties/structures around water are considered part of the Red Penalty Area. The outer edge of the wood defines the edge of the Red Penalty Area if not marked by stakes or lines
- Environmentally sensitive areas marked with green stakes require a free drop at the nearest point. Flower beds are a part of the General Area and do not receive free relief

# Hard Card

**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.

**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. **Penalty for Playing Ball from a Wrong Place in Breach of Local Rule: General Penalty Under Rule 14.7a.**

**3. SPECIAL OR REQUIRED RELIEF PROCEDURES 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**, including gallery crosswalks (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) A **hole made by a movable obstruction** (microphone, stakes, signs, tripods, tables, chairs, etc.) may be treated as ground under repair by the Committee. But interference does not exist if the hole interferes with the player's stance.
- vi) **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) **Roads or paths surfaced with wood chips or mulch;** the individual pieces of wood chips or mulch are loose impediments.
- iv) **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:

On the line of play, and is:

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

**Exception** – 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) **The portion of wires, cables, wrappings, poles, signs and lightning rods** closely attached to trees or closely attached to 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.

**e. Temporary Immovable Obstructions:** Model Local Rule F-23 in Committee Procedures is in effect and includes any Temporary Immovable Obstruction installed for the competition.

**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 on the Official Notices Board and starting tees, 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, except in case 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 this 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 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 squeegeed

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

**9. STARTING POINT DEFINED:** For the purpose of applying Rule 5.3a, the **starting point** for hole #1 and hole #10 or any other defined starting hole is defined by the rope, gallery stakes, and/or blue stakes, blue dots or blue lines, and/or the closely mown teeing area.

**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 defined scoring area outside of earshot

**11. MEASURING CONDITION OF PUTTING GREENS:** Before or between rounds on any day of the competition or play-off, a player 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 and certified by the Committee, the competition is closed.

# PACE OF PLAY

A round of golf is meant to be played at a prompt pace. Each player should recognize that his pace of play is likely to affect how long it will take other players to play their *rounds*, including both those in the player's own group and those in following groups. To encourage and enforce prompt play, and in addition to the provisions of Rule 5.6, the Committee has adopted the following Local Rule setting a Pace of Play Policy:

- 1. Pace of Play Time Chart:** All groups of four (4) are expected to play at a pace not to exceed **4 hours 34 minutes**.
- 2. Definition of Out of Position:** The first group to start from the 1<sup>st</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> tee in either the morning or afternoon wave, or after a "starter's time," will be considered out of position if, at any time during the *round*, the group's cumulative time exceeds the time allowed for the number of holes played. Any following group will be considered out of position if a) it has exceeded the time allowed for the number of holes played **and** b) reaches the tee on a par 3 hole and the preceding group has cleared the next tee, or fails to clear the tee of a par 4 hole before the preceding group has cleared the putting green, or reaches the tee of a par 5 hole when the preceding group is on the putting green. Both (a) and (b) must apply for a group to be out of position.
- 3. Procedure When Group is Out of Position:** *Referees* will monitor pace of play and decide whether a group that is "out of position" should be timed. An assessment of whether there are any recent mitigating circumstances, e.g. a lengthy ruling, *lost* ball, unplayable ball, etc. will be made. If a decision is made to time the players, each player in the group will be subject to individual timing and a *referee* will advise each player that they are "out of position" and they are being timed. In exceptional circumstances, an individual player, or two players within a group of three may be timed instead of an entire group.
- 4. The Maximum Time Allocated Per Stroke:** Is **40 seconds**. **Ten** extra seconds are allowed for the first player to play: a) a tee shot on a par 3 hole; b) an approach shot to the green; and c) a chip or putt.

The timing will start when a player has had sufficient time to reach the ball, it is his turn to play, and he or she is able to play without interference or distraction. Time taken to determine distance and select a club will count as time taken for the next stroke.

On the *putting green*, timing will start when the player has had a reasonable amount of time to lift, clean and *replace* the ball, repair damage that interferes with the *line of play* and move *loose impediments* on the *line of play*. Time spent looking at the *line of play* from beyond the hole and/or behind the ball will count as part of the time taken for the next *stroke*.

Timings will be taken from the moment it is decided by the *referee* that it is the player's turn to play and he or she is able to play without interference or distraction. The first time a player exceeds the time limit listed above, he or she will be cautioned that any further time in excess of this limit will be treated as a breach of this Local Rule.

Timing ceases when a group is back in position.

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

- Penalty for first breach: One-stroke penalty.
- Penalty for second breach: **General Penalty** applied in addition to the penalty for the first breach.
- Penalty for third breach: **Disqualification**.

Until a player has been advised of a bad time, he or she or she cannot incur a further bad time.

**NOTE:** The Committee reserves the right, at any time, to time a group when the Committee considers it necessary. Further, if a player is determined by the Committee to be unreasonably slow, he or she may be timed individually at the Committee's discretion regardless of whether his group is out of position. Players should also be aware that the Committee may assess a "bad time" to a player in a group which is out of position if the player makes no effort to help his or her group get back in position. Examples of this would be a player who unreasonably delays play between *strokes* or holes.

- 5. Procedure When Again Out of Position During Same Round:** If a group is "out of position" more than once during a *round*, the above procedure will apply on each occasion. Bad times and the application of penalties in the same *round* will be carried forward until the *round* is completed. A player will not be penalized if he or she has a second bad time before being advised of the earlier bad time.