

Local Rules and Terms of the Competition for LGA Championships

The Rules of Golf as approved by the USGA and The R&A govern play. These Local Rules and Terms of the Competition are in effect at all LGA championships and qualifying rounds. See applicable championship or qualifying round *Notice to Players* and *Entry Application* for modifications or additions to these Local Rules and Terms of the Competition. Complete text of the Rules and Local Rules may be found in the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf, effective January 2019.

**UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, THE PENALTY FOR BREACH
OF A LOCAL RULE IS THE GENERAL PENALTY.**

LOCAL RULES

OUT OF BOUNDS — Defined by the line between the course-side points, at ground level, of white stakes and fence posts.

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.

GROUND UNDER REPAIR — Defined by white lines. French drains are ground under repair.

RELIEF FROM SEAMS OF CUT TURF — 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:

(a) Ball in General Area. The player may take relief under Rule 16.1b.

(b) Ball on Putting Green. The player may take relief under Rule 16.1d.

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 when 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 still within one club-length of the reference point.

WHITE-LINED AREAS TYING INTO ARTIFICIALLY SURFACED ROADS AND PATHS — White-lined areas of ground under repair and the artificially surfaced roads, paths or other identified obstructions that they are connected to are a single abnormal course condition when taking relief under Rule 16.1.

WOOD CHIPS AND MULCH — Are loose impediments.

INTEGRAL OBJECTS — Include cables, rods, wires and wrappings when closely attached to trees, and artificial walls and pilings when located in penalty areas and bunkers, unless otherwise provided for in the *Notice to Players*.

ELEVATED POWER LINES AND CABLES — If a player's ball hits an elevated power line or cable, the stroke does not count. The player must play a ball without penalty from where the previous stroke was made (see Rule 14.6 for what to do).

TERMS OF THE COMPETITION

WHEN COMPETITION IS FINAL — The competition is final 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 result of a match is final when the Committee has approved the result.

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.

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.

PACE OF PLAY — See separate memorandum to players for pace of play policy, when applicable. Players are encouraged to play 'ready golf' in a responsible manner as prescribed in Rules 5.6b, the exception to 6.4a, and 6.4b.

STOPPING AND RESUMING PLAY — An immediate suspension will be signaled by one prolonged airhorn note. All other types of suspension will be signaled by three consecutive airhorn notes. Resumption of play will be signaled by two short airhorn notes. All practice areas are closed during an immediate suspension for a dangerous situation until the Committee has declared them open. Players who practice on closed practice areas will be asked to stop practicing; failure to stop practicing might result in disqualification.

PRACTICE — Rule 5.2b covering practice in stroke play is modified in this way: A player may not practice on the competition course before or between rounds. Penalty for breach of Local Rule, see Rule 5.2.

PRACTICE ON OR NEAR PUTTING GREEN OF HOLE LAST PLAYED (PROHIBITED) — Rule 5.5b is modified in this way: 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.

Code of Conduct Policy/Local Rule

Rule 1.2 states, in part, “All players are expected to play in the spirit of the game by: 1. Acting with integrity – for example, by following the Rules, applying all penalties, and being honest in all aspects of play, 2. Showing consideration to others – for example, by playing at a prompt pace, looking out for the safety of others, and not distracting the play of another player, and 3. Taking good care of the course – for example, by replacing divots, smoothing bunkers, repairing ball-marks, and not causing unnecessary damage to the course.”

Per the *Interpretations* to Rule 1.2a found in the *Official Guide to the Rules of Golf*, the phrase “serious misconduct” is intended to cover player misconduct that is so far removed from the expected norm in golf that the most severe sanction of removing a player from the competition is justified. This includes dishonesty, deliberately interfering with another player’s rights, or endangering the safety of others.

The LGA Rules Committee has put into place this code of conduct policy to address all levels of misconduct, including those where a player’s level of misconduct, in the Committee’s determination, would more effectively be dealt with by the following penalty structure:

- First breach of the Code of Conduct – Warning
- Second breach – one-stroke penalty
- Third breach – general penalty
- Fourth breach or any serious misconduct – disqualification*

*Note that this penalty structure does not preclude the Committee from disqualifying a player if, in their sole determination, a player commits a first breach of the code of conduct policy that is worthy of disqualification. When deciding whether a player is guilty of serious misconduct, the Committee will consider whether the player’s action was intentional and whether the act was significant enough to warrant disqualification without first giving a warning and/or applying other penalties from the Code of Conduct penalty structure.

Some examples of misconduct that most likely will not be considered “serious misconduct” include the following: 1. Players entering no play zones, 2. Failure to care for the course, for example not raking bunkers, not replacing or filling divots or not repairing ball-marks, 3. Unacceptable language, 4. Abuse of clubs or the course, 5. Being disrespectful of other players, referees, or spectators.

The LGA Code of Conduct also applies to a player’s caddie, i.e., the player can be penalized for the actions of his or her caddie during the round.

Some examples of misconduct that are likely to be considered “serious misconduct” include: 1. Deliberately causing serious damage to a putting green, 2. Disagreeing with the course set-up and taking it upon himself or herself to move tee-markers or boundary stakes, 3. Throwing a club towards another player or spectator, 4. Deliberately distracting other players while they are making strokes, 5. Removing loose impediments or movable obstructions to disadvantage another player after that person has asked him or her to leave them in place, 6. Repeatedly refusing to lift a ball at rest when it interferes with another player in stroke play, 7. Deliberately playing away from the hole and then towards the hole to assist the player’s partner (such as helping the player’s partner learn the break on the putting green), 8. Deliberately not playing in accordance with the Rules and potentially gaining a significant advantage by doing so, despite incurring a penalty for a breach of the relevant rule, 9. Repeatedly using vulgar or offensive language, 10. Using a handicap that has been established for the purpose of providing an unfair advantage or using the round being played to establish such a handicap.

Individual members of the Committee will not be given authority to penalize players for a breach of the LGA Code of Conduct Policy. Any penalties will be a result of the entire Committee’s decision and will not be meted out unless the Committee is convinced the penalty is justified. The Committee’s decision is final.