

# RULES OF PLAY AND CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION FOR MGA CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Rules of the United States Golf Association govern play. See applicable Championship or Qualifying round Notice to Players and Entry Application for additional Local Rules and Conditions. Complete text of Rules and Appendix I may be found in the 2016 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**

## RULES OF PLAY

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**OUT OF BOUNDS:** Defined by inside points, at ground level, of white stakes, fence posts and white lines. Rule 27-1b.

**WATER AND LATERAL WATER HAZARD STAKES AND LINES:** When a water hazard or lateral water hazard is defined on only one side, it is deemed to extend to infinity. When a water hazard or lateral water hazard is bounded by out of bounds, the hazard margin extends to and coincides with the out of bounds line.

**GROUND UNDER REPAIR:** Enclosed white lined areas define ground under repair offering relief without penalty. Other areas of ground under repair, even though not so marked include: French drains (trenches filled with stones or the like).

**CART PATHS:** Cart paths are immovable obstructions. White-lined areas tying into cart paths have the same status as the paths, that of obstructions.

**WOOD CHIPS AND MULCH:** Are loose impediments, unless otherwise provided in Local Rules/Notice to Competitors.

**EMBEDDED BALL:** Anywhere "through the green," a ball which is embedded in its own pitch-mark in the ground, except in loose sand, may be lifted without penalty, cleaned and dropped as near as possible to the spot where it lay but not nearer the hole. The ball when dropped must first strike a part of the course through the green. **EXCEPTION:** A player may not obtain relief under this rule if it is clearly unreasonable for him to play a stroke because of interference by anything other than the condition covered by this rule.

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

**SEAMS OF CUT TURF (SOD SEAMS):** The Local Rule as prescribed in Appendix I is in effect.

**DISTANCE-MEASURING DEVICES:** The Local Rule as prescribed in Appendix I is in effect.

**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.

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."

## CONDITIONS

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**LIST OF CONFORMING DRIVER HEADS:** Optional Condition as prescribed in Appendix I is in effect.

**LIST OF CONFORMING GOLF BALLS:** Optional Condition as prescribed in Appendix I is in effect.

**MGA PACE OF PLAY POLICY:** In effect unless otherwise indicated on Local Rules/Notice to Competitors. NOTE: See MGA Pace of Play Policy.

**DISCONTINUANCE OF PLAY:** Optional Condition as prescribed in Appendix I is in effect. All practice areas are closed during suspension for a dangerous situation until the Committee has declared them open. Players who practice on closed practice areas will be asked to cease doing so; failure to comply may result in revocation of entry.

### SIGNALS:

**DANGEROUS SITUATION:** **One** prolonged air horn note.

**ALL OTHER SITUATIONS:** **Three** consecutive air horn notes, repeated.

**RESUMPTION OF PLAY:** **Two** short air horn notes, repeated.

**UNBECOMING CONDUCT:** Unbecoming conduct is, but not limited to: vulgarity, throwing equipment in anger, destruction of property, and verbal or physical abuse to any person. A player who is in violation may be subject to disqualification.

**NO SHOW POLICY:** Those players who fail to appear for their assigned tee time without notifying the MGA may be suspended from play in future MGA tournaments. NO SHOWS also include any players who fail to turn in score cards or who withdraw during play without notifying an official and personally surrendering their score cards to that official.

**PLAY-OFF:** If a play-off for qualifying or alternate positions is required, the play-off will begin at the time and the hole designated by the Committee in charge after all players have completed the stipulated round. If conditions do not allow a play-off to occur or continue, there will be a matching of score cards as prescribed by the USGA method (Page 160 Section 10(c) of the USGA Rules of Golf). If this procedure does not produce a winner, the winner will be determined by lot. Any player who fails to report for a play-off will be relegated to last place in the tied group.

**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 result of a match is considered to have been "officially announced" when the Committee has approved the result as posted on the public scoreboard.

**These rules and any local rules distributed by the Committee supersede anything printed on the host club's scorecard. The Committee in charge of this competition comprises those officials assigned by the MGA whose decisions are final.**