

## RULES OF PLAY AND CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION FOR MGA CHAMPIONSHIPS

Play is governed by USGA Rules and Decisions except as modified by Local Rules.

Unless otherwise specified, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule or Condition is two strokes in Stroke Play and loss of hole in Match Play.

### RULES OF PLAY

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

**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 water hazards and lateral hazards are bounded by out of bounds, the hazard margin extends to and coincides with the out of bounds line.

**GROUND UNDER REPAIR:** Enclosed white line 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, liners in bunkers and artificial walls and pilings when located in hazards, unless otherwise provided for in Notice to Competitors/Local Rules.

### CONDITIONS

**GOLF BALLS:** Only brands of golf balls on the USGA's latest List of Conforming Balls may be used. Penalty for breach of condition: *Disqualification.*

**TIME OF STARTING:** Optional Condition as prescribed in Appendix I (Page 119 in the USGA Rules of Golf) is in effect.

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

**DISCONTINUANCE OF PLAY:** Players have the right to discontinue play and take shelter if they believe they are in danger.

#### SIGNALS:

**DANGEROUS SITUATION:** **One** prolonged airhorn note.

**ALL OTHER SITUATIONS:** **Three** consecutive airhorn notes, repeated.

**RESUMPTION OF PLAY:** **Two** short airhorn notes, repeated.

When play is suspended for a dangerous situation, if the players in a group are between the play of two holes, they shall not resume play until the Committee has ordered a resumption of play. If they are in the process of playing a hole, they shall discontinue play immediately and shall not thereafter resume play until the Committee has ordered a resumption of play.

All practice areas shall be closed during suspension for a dangerous situation until the Committee has declared them open for use.

**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. The Optional Condition as prescribed in Rule 6-3 (Time of Starting) is in effect for the play-off. 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 124 Section 11(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.

**RESULTS OF THE COMPETITION:** When all the scores have been posted on the official scoreboard and approved by the Committee, the result of the competition is deemed to have been officially announced. These rules and any local rules distributed by the Committee supersede anything printed on the host club's score card. The Committee in charge of this competition comprises those officials assigned by the MGA whose decisions are final.