

# LOCAL RULES AND CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION FOR WJGA COMPETITIONS AND CHAMPIONSHIPS



*Rules of the United States Golf Association govern play. See applicable Championship or Qualifying event Notice to Players and Entry Application for additional Local Rules and Conditions. Complete text of Rules and Appendix I may be found in the 2017-2018 Rules of Golf*

## **LOCAL RULES -- Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule or Condition is: Stroke Play – Two Strokes**

**Out of Bounds** — Defined by inside points, at ground level, of white stakes and fence posts. Rule 27-1. A ball which crosses a public road defined as out of bounds and comes to rest on another part of the course is out of bounds. Rule 27-1.

**Water Hazard and Lateral Water Hazard Stakes and Lines** — When a water hazard or a 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** — Defined by white lines. Fire ant hills, sod-covered trenching for temporary cables and French drains are deemed to be ground under repair. Rule 25-1. (Note: For a player whose ball is in a water hazard and is affected by a fire ant hill — see Decision 1-4/10.) Ground under repair may include areas of unusual damage, including areas where spectators or other traffic has combined with wet conditions to affect materially the ground surface, but only when so declared by an authorized member of the Committee. When immediately adjacent to an obstruction, such an area is part of the obstruction.

**Seams of Cut Turf (Sod Seams)** — The Local Rule as prescribed in Appendix I is in effect.

**Staked Trees** — Staked trees are to be treated as immovable obstructions. Relief from the stakes and guy wires for lie of ball, stance and intended swing. No relief under 24-2b is available for line of play.

**Embedded Ball Through the Green** — Local Rule as prescribed in Appendix I is in effect.

## **CONDITIONS**

**List of Conforming Driver Heads** — Optional Condition as prescribed in Appendix I is in effect.

**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.

Note: A suspension for a dangerous situation will be signaled by one prolonged airhorn note. All other types of suspension will be signaled by three consecutive airhorn notes, repeated. Resumption of play will be signaled by two short airhorn notes, repeated.

**Distance Measuring Devices** a player may obtain distance information by use of a distance-measuring device. If, during a stipulated round a distance measuring device is used to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his play (e.g., elevation changes, wind speed, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 14-3.

**Transportation** — Optional Condition as prescribed in Appendix I is in effect. Caddies or motorized carts are not permitted by players or spectators.

**Immovable Obstructions** — Include plastic bumpers on roads and paths and mats secured to the ground with spikes when the bumpers or mats cover cables.

**Environmentally Sensitive Areas** — Players are prohibited from entering areas defined by the course as an environmentally sensitive area to retrieve a ball, take a stance, or to take their intended swing.

**White-Lined Areas Tying Into Artificially-Surfaced Roads and Paths** — have the same status as the roads and paths to which they are connected.

**Wood Chips and Mulch** — are loose impediments, unless otherwise provided for in Notice to Players.

**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 Players.

**Practice** — Prior to and after his round in stroke play, a player may practice on the designated practice areas. Rule 7-1b applies to other practice in stroke play, and Rule 7-1a covers practice before the round in match play. Practice is prohibited on the putting green of the hole just completed.

**SCORECARD 6-6D Exception** — If a competitor returns a score for any hole lower than actually taken due to failure to include one or more penalty strokes that, before returning his score card, he did not know he had incurred, he is not disqualified. In such circumstances, the competitor incurs the penalty prescribed by the applicable Rule, but there is not additional penalty for a breach of Rule 6-6d. This Exception does not apply when the penalty is disqualification from the competition.

**Temporary Power Lines and Cables** — Local Rule as prescribed in Appendix I is in effect.

**Temporary Immovable Obstructions** — Local Rule as prescribed in Appendix I is in effect.

**Power Lines** — If a ball strikes a power line or elevated cable, the stroke must be cancelled and the player must play a ball as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was played in accordance with Rule 20-5.

**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.

**Pace of Play** — See separate memorandum to players for pace of play guidelines, when applicable. A player may be subject to penalty if observed to require in excess of forty (40) seconds for each of two (2) Separate shots.

**The Local Rule** for a ball accidentally moved on the putting green of the hole being played is in effect for WJGA as of January 1, 2017. See **info graphic on back side.**

# LOCAL RULE: ACCIDENTAL MOVEMENT OF A BALL ON THE PUTTING GREEN

**WHAT IT MEANS:** *The committee in charge of a competition or course now has the option to adopt a Local Rule that eliminates the penalty for **all** circumstances when a player, an opponent or either of their partners, caddies or equipment **accidentally** moves a ball or ball-marker on the putting green.*

## HOW IT WORKS | The following are examples where the Local Rule would apply:

**IF:** When preparing to make a stroke, a player accidentally causes the ball to move...



**THEN:** No penalty, and the ball must be replaced.

**IF:** A player accidentally drops his/her ball, which hits and moves the ball-marker...



**THEN:** No penalty, and the ball-marker must be replaced.

**IF:** A player accidentally drops his/her ball-marker, which hits and moves the ball...



**THEN:** No penalty, and the ball must be replaced.

**IF:** A player accidentally kicks and moves his/her ball...



**THEN:** No penalty, and the ball must be replaced.

## HOW IT DOESN'T WORK | The following are examples where the Local Rule would not apply:

**IF:** A player intentionally moves or lifts his/her ball on the putting green without first marking its location...

**THEN:** One-stroke penalty, and the ball must be replaced.

**IF:** A player accidentally moves his/her ball that is lying on the fairway, in the rough or in a bunker...

**THEN:** One-stroke penalty, and the ball must be replaced.

