



# Local Rules and Terms of the Competition

*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 AGA Championships and qualifying rounds. See applicable championship or qualifying round Notice to Players and Entry Information 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 current Official Guide to the Rules of Golf, effective January 2023.*

**Unless otherwise specified, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule is the general penalty.**

**CODE OF CONDUCT:** All championship participants and their caddies must adhere to the AGA Code of Conduct as provided on the AGA website ([www.alabamagolf.org](http://www.alabamagolf.org)). The AGA Rules Committee may assess any or all of the following penalties based on severity and frequency of the violation(s):

- First breach of the Code of Conduct – warning or Committee sanction
- Second breach - one-stroke penalty
- Third breach - general penalty
- Fourth breach or any serious misconduct – immediate disqualification from the tournament at which the violation occurs

**OUT OF BOUNDS:** Defined by the line between the course-side points, at ground level, of the white stakes and fence posts. A ball which crosses a public road defined as out of bounds and comes to rest beyond that road is out of bounds, even though it may lie on another part of the course.

**PENALTY AREAS:** Where a penalty area is defined on only one side, it extends to infinity. Where the edge of a penalty area coincides with a boundary line, the penalty area extends to and coincides with the boundary line. When a player's ball is in a penalty area, if the player's ball last crossed the edge of the penalty area where it coincides with a boundary line, as an additional relief option to Rule 17.1d, the player may take lateral relief on the opposite edge of the penalty area using a reference point that is the same distance from the hole as the estimated point where the ball crossed into the penalty area on the boundary side.

**GROUND UNDER REPAIR:** Defined by white lines. Ground under repair also includes French drains, which are trenches filled with rocks or stones and newly trenched areas, including grass-covered cables. An exposed bunker liner, not in its intended position, is ground under repair. But interference does not exist if a bunker liner only interferes with the player's stance. 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.

**RELIEF FROM SEAMS OF CUT TURF:** If a player's ball is in the general area and the ball lies in or touches a seam of cut turf or a seam interferes with the player's area of intended swing, the player may take relief under Rule 16.1b. But interference does not exist if the seam only interferes with the player's stance.

**IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS:** Include plastic bumpers on roads and paths, and mats secured to the ground with spikes when the bumpers or mats cover cables.

**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 or wrappings when closely attached to trees and boundary objects. Artificial walls and pilings when located in penalty areas (or when used to define penalty area) or in or adjacent to bunkers and bunker liners. An exposed bunker liner may be treated as ground under repair, but interference does not exist if the liner interferes only with the player's stance.

## **GATES IN BOUNDARY FENCES AND WALLS**

Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule F-26. All closed gates that are attached to boundary walls and fences are part of the boundary object. Relief is not allowed from such a gate under Rule 15.2 or 16.1.

**PROHIBITING USE OF CERTAIN TYPES OF SHOES (METAL SPIKES):** Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule G-7. Penalty for breach of Local Rule - see Rule 4.3.

**PLAYER/CADDIE MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION POLICY:** During play of a hole, either the player or the player's caddie may ride in a golf cart but not both at the same time except as authorized or later approved by the Committee. Penalty for breach of Local Rule is the general penalty for each hole where the breach occurred.

**PACE OF PLAY:** A group that is out of position (as defined by AGA Pace of Play Policy) will be advised of the situation and the individuals may be timed. The players will be notified that exceeding **40 seconds** to play their next shot will result in a warning. A second violation will result in a one stroke penalty. A third violation will result in a two-stroke penalty followed by disqualification for a fourth violation. A player's time to play begins when the player has had a reasonable opportunity to reach his or her ball and when it is the player's turn to play and can do so without interference or distraction. Penalties are applied individually, but more than one competitor in a group may be penalized.

**IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS CLOSE TO PUTTING GREEN (BALL IN GENERAL AREA CUT TO FAIRWAY HEIGHT OR LESS):** Relief from interference by an immovable obstruction may be taken under Rule 16.1. In addition, if the player's ball lies off the putting green and in the general area cut to fairway height or less and an immovable obstruction within two club-lengths of the putting green and within two club-lengths of the ball intervenes on the line of play, the player may take relief under Rule 16.1. Model Local Rule F-5.

**TEMPORARY IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS:** Greenside fans, starting, scoring and concession tents, AGA hole signs and AGA banners are temporary immovable obstructions (TIO's). Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedure is in effect. See Model Local Rule F-23 for interference and relief procedure. Additionally, a player may use "either side" relief when proceeding under this rule.

**BALL DEFLECTED BY POWER LINE:** If it is known or virtually certain that a player's ball hit a power line, power line tower or a wire or pole supporting a power line, the player must play replay the stroke by playing the original ball or another ball without penalty from the spot the stroke was made (see Rule 14.6). Model Local Rule E-11.

**LIST OF CONFORMING DRIVER HEADS:** Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule G-1.

**LIST OF CONFORMING GOLF BALLS:** Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule G-3.

**STOPPING AND RESUMING PLAY:** A suspension of play 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. Players who practice on closed practice areas will be asked to stop practicing; failure to stop practicing might result in disqualification.

**SCORECARDS:** A scorecard is deemed returned once a player exits the defined scoring area (see "Notice to Players" for location). A player that remains within the defined scoring area may make alterations to their scorecard, with the consent of their marker or the Committee.

## **MISSING PLAYER OR MARKER CERTIFICATION**

Model Local Rule L-1 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedure is in effect.

**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 as posted on the public scoreboard (either paper or digital).