

2026 Local Rules & Terms of the Competition

The Rules of Golf govern play, except as modified below by the Carolinas PGA. The following Local Rules and Terms of the Competition apply and may be found in the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf, effective January 1, 2023. See the applicable competition's "Notice to Players" for additional definitions, Local Rules or amendments. Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule is: Match Play – Loss of Hole | Stroke Play – Two Strokes

1. **Out of Bounds – Rule 18.2.**

- a. Out of bounds is defined by the line between the course-side points at ground level of white stakes and boundary fence posts.
- b. A ball coming to rest on or beyond a road defined as out of bounds, is out of bounds, even if it comes to rest on another part of the course. (MLR A-5)

2. **Abnormal Course Conditions (including Immovable Obstructions) – Rule 16.1.**

- a. Ground Under Repair to include:
 - i. Any area encircled by a white line (except drop zones or out of bounds).
 - ii. French drains, filled with rocks or stones, which may or may not be covered with turf.
 - iii. Aeration holes in general area or on putting green – Model Local Rule E-4 is in effect for lie of ball and swing only.
 - iv. Seams of cut turf – Model Local Rule F-7 is in effect for lie of ball and swing only. All seams within the area of cut turf are treated as the same seam in taking relief.
 - v. Edging grooves near putting greens – Model Local Rule F-19 is in effect for lie of ball and swing only.
 - vi. A hole made by a movable obstruction (stakes, signs, tables, chairs or the like) may be treated as ground under repair by the Committee. But interference does not exist if the hole only interferes with the player's stance.
- b. Immovable Obstructions:
 - i. White lined areas tying into an obstruction are treated as that same obstruction. Model Local Rule F-3.1
 - ii. When landscaped or garden areas (flower beds, shrubbery, or the like) are completely encircled by an obstruction, the obstruction and landscaped area are treated as one abnormal course condition. Model Local Rule F-3.3
 - iii. When railroad ties, curbing or the like adjoin an obstruction, they are treated as that same obstruction.
 - iv. Roads or paths surfaced with wood chips or mulch; the individual pieces of wood chips or mulch are loose impediments.
 - v. Where the non-course side edge of a road or path defines out of bounds, the road or path is an obstruction.
- c. Removal of Temporary Water:

Model Local Rule J-2 is in effect. If a ball lies on the putting green and there is interference by temporary water on the putting green, the Committee may:

 - i. Require the player to take free relief under Rule 16.1.
 - ii. Squeegee the line of play.
 - iii. Squeegee the entire putting green at any time.

3. **Immovable Obstructions Close to Putting Greens**

Model Local Rule F-5 is in effect. For a ball in the general area, relief under Rule 16.1b is allowed only when both the ball and the immovable obstruction lie in an area cut to fairway height or less. The obstruction must be, i) within two club-lengths of the putting green, ii) on the player's line of play, and iii) the ball must be within two club-lengths of the obstruction.

4. **Temporary Immovable Obstructions (TIO's)**

Model Local Rule F-23 is in effect and includes temporary immovable obstructions installed for the competition such as tents, signs, etc.

5. **Permanent Elevated Power Lines or Cables**

Model Local Rule E-11 is in effect and is modified as follows: If it is known or virtually certain that a player's ball hit a power line in bounds, the player must replay the stroke. If the player does not replay the stroke, they receive the general penalty and the stroke counts, but the player has not played from a wrong place.

6. **Integral Objects**

- a. Artificial retaining walls and/or pilings when located within penalty areas.
- b. The portion of wires, cables, wrappings, signs, poles or antennas when closely attached to trees or objects defining out of bounds.
- c. Bunker liners in their intended position. Note: An exposed liner may be treated by the Committee as ground under repair. But interference does not exist if a liner only interferes with the player's stance.
- d. Gates attached to objects defining out of bounds. All closed gates that are attached to boundary walls and fences are part of the boundary object. But an open gate is not treated as part of the boundary object and may be closed or moved to a different position.
Model Local Rule F-26

7. **Specifications of Clubs and the Ball**

- a. List of Conforming Driver Heads – Model Local Rule G-1 is in effect. Penalty for making a stroke with club in breach of this Local Rule – Disqualification.
- b. List of Conforming Golf Balls – Model Local Rule G-3 is in effect. Penalty for making a stroke with a ball in breach of this Local Rule – Disqualification.

8. **Committee Pace of Play – Rule 5.6b (3).**

See posted CPGA Pace of Play Guidelines for pace of play and penalties.

9. **Stopping Play; Resuming Play – Rule 5.7**

Model Local Rule J-1 is in effect as follows:

- a. Immediate Suspension (Dangerous situation): One prolonged note of the air horn.
- b. Normal Suspension (Non-Dangerous situation such as darkness or heavy rains): Three consecutive notes of the air horn.
- c. Resume Play: Two short notes of the air horn.

Note: During an immediate suspension for a dangerous situation, all practice areas are closed until the Committee has declared them open. Players who disregard such closing are subject to disciplinary action.

10. **Practice Before or Between Rounds**

Model Local Rule I-1.2 is in effect and Rule 5.2b is modified as follows: A player must not practice on the competition course, but may practice on the designated practice areas.

TERMS OF THE COMPETITION

11. **Deciding Ties**

In the event of a tie for first place, unless otherwise specified, a hole-by-hole stroke play play-off will determine the winner immediately following the last round.

12. **Scorecard Returned**

For the purpose of applying Rule 3.3b(2), a player's scorecard is treated as returned 15 minutes after the scorecard is accepted into the electronic scoring system. **Exception:** A player's scorecard is returned if any of the following four events occur, even if it occurs before the 15-minute time limit has expired or the player is still in the scoring area: 1) Starting times have been released after a cut has been made, 2) the player begins their next round, 3) any player has made a stroke to begin a playoff, or 4) the competition has closed.

13. **Missing Player or Marker Certification — Model Local Rule L-1 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.**

14. **When Result of Competition is Final**

The competition is final when all scores have been approved by the Committee. In the event of a play-off, the competition is final when the play-off scores have been approved by the Committee.

15. **Code of Conduct**

By signing an official entry form, registering online, or verbally committing to compete in a CPGA event, the player agrees to abide by the prescribed Rules of Conduct that can be found in Article V of the CPGA Tournament Rules & Regulations. Violations of the Rules of Conduct can result in a fine and/or loss of playing privileges.