

2024 Prestige Tour Local Rules and Terms of the Competition

The Rules of Golf approved by the United States Golf Association and R&A Rules Limited govern play, except as modified below by the Southern Texas PGA. The following Local Rules and Terms of the Competition apply as referenced below 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 specified, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule is:

Match Play - Loss of Hole

Stroke Play - General Penalty (Two Penalty Strokes)

Upon completion and confirmation of entry, all players have agreed to abide by all Southern Texas PGA Tournament Rules and Regulations - including Code of Conduct, Dress Code, and any special guidelines for specific events.

1. OUT OF BOUNDS: RULE 18.2.

A ball which crosses a 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.

2. PENALTY AREAS: RULE 17.

a. Dropping Zones:

If a ball is in or it is known or virtually certain that a ball that has not been found is in a penalty area and a drop zone is specified on the applicable "Notice to Players" for that penalty area, the player may as an extra option, drop a ball under penalty of one stroke, in the encircled white-lined area labeled "DZ" located as indicated on the applicable "Notice to Players". The ball must be dropped in and come to rest within the drop zone. Model Local Rule E-1.1.

b. Relief on Opposite Side of Red Penalty Areas:

Red penalty areas with an opposite side relief option will be indicated on the applicable "Notice to Players". Model Local Rule B-2.1.
Note: When the edge of a red penalty area coincides with the boundary of the course, Model Local Rule B-2.2 is in effect and modifies the first paragraph of Model Local Rule B-2.1.

3. ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITIONS (INCLUDING IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS): RULE 16.1

a. Ground Under Repair:

- Areas completely encircled with white lines (except dropping zones and out of bounds).
- French drains (drainage ditch filled with stones).
- Relief from Seams of Cut Turf — Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule F-7.

b. Immovable Obstructions:

- White-lined areas tying into an obstruction are treated as part of that same obstruction.
- When landscaped or garden areas (flower beds, shrubbery, or the like) are completely encircled by an obstruction, the obstruction and the landscaped area are treated as one abnormal course condition.
- Roads or paths surfaced with wood chips or mulch; the individual pieces of wood chips or mulch are loose impediments.
- Where the outside edge (non-golf course side) of a road or path defines out of bounds, the road or path is an obstruction.
- When railroad ties, wooden posts, stones, or stone curbing or the like adjoin artificially surfaced roads or paths, they are deemed to be part of the road or path.
- Stakes, rope, wires, or other objects supporting trees or tree limbs provided they are not closely attached to the tree, are obstructions. Relief without penalty from the tree itself is not permitted.

4. IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS CLOSE TO PUTTING GREENS: Model Local Rule F-5 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect and modified as follows: For a ball in the general area, relief 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

5. INTEGRAL OBJECTS:

- Bunker Liners. An exposed liner may be treated as ground under repair by the Committee under Rule 16.1. But interference does not exist if the liner only interferes with the player's stance
- The portion of cables, wires, wrappings, poles, or antennas where closely attached to objects defining out of bounds or trees.
- Artificial retaining walls and/or pilings when located within penalty areas.
- Gates attached to objects defining out of bounds.

6. **TRANSPORTATION:** All players must walk during their round, players are allowed to use a push cart at the discretion of the host facility. Any shuttle holes will be designated on the "Notice to Players".

7. PRACTICE BETWEEN AND DURING ROUNDS:

- Before or between round in stroke play – Model Local Rules I-1.1 is in effect and Rules 5.2b is modified as follows: A player must not practice on the competition course, but may practice on the designated practice areas. Penalty for Breach of Local Rules, see Rules 5.2.
- Between holes in stroke play – Model Local Rules I-2, is in effect and Rules 5.2b is modified as follows: Between the play of two holes, a player must not make any practice stroke on or near the putting green of the hole just completed and must not test the surface of that putting green by rubbing the putting green or rolling a ball.

8. **PERMANENT ELEVATED POWER LINES:** Model Local Rule E-11 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures 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 stroke does not count. The player must play a ball without penalty from where the previous stroke was made in accordance with Rule 14.6.

9. **TEMPORARY IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS:** Model Local Rules F-22 and F-23 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect and includes any Temporary Immovable Obstruction installed for the competition.

10. SPECIFICATION OF CLUBS AND THE BALL:

- 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.
- Groove and Punch Mark Specifications (except for amateurs in a Pro-Am that does not count in the official competition, the Pro-Pro Am-Ams, or Pro Junior) - Model Local Rule G-2 is in effect.
- 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.
- Replacing Club that is Broken or Significantly Damaged - Model Local Rule G-9 as prescribed in the Clarifications to the 2019 Rules of Golf is in effect.

11. **PROHIBITING USE OF CLUB LONGER THAN 46 INCHES:** Model Local Rule G-11 is in effect.

12. **PACE OF PLAY:** See Rule 5.6b(3). See posted STPGA Pace of Play Policy.

13. **PROHIBITING USE OF AUDIO & VISUAL DEVICES:** Rule 4.3 is modified in this way: During a round, a player must not listen to or watch content of any nature on a personal audio or video device.

14. STOPPING PLAY; RESUMING PLAY: See Rule 5.7b

When play is suspended for a dangerous situation if the players in a match or 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 resume play until the Committee has ordered a resumption of play.

If a player plays a stroke after a suspension of play for a dangerous situation the player should be notified immediately that play has been suspended and he/she must suspend play. If any other stroke is played following the notification, he/she is disqualified.

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

Discontinue Play Immediately (Dangerous Situation): One prolonged signal note.

Discontinue Play (Non-Dangerous Situation): Three consecutive short signal notes.

Resume Play: Two short signal notes, repeated.

TERMS OF THE COMPETITION

15. **STARTING POINT DEFINED:** For the purpose of applying Rule 5.3a, the starting point for #1 and #10 is defined by the rope, gallery stakes, tent, and/or blue stakes, blue dots, or blue lines.

16. **RETURNING SCORECARD:** For the purpose of applying Rule 3.3b(2), a player's scorecard has been returned to the Committee when the player has exited the defined scoring area with both feet. Prior to returning the scorecard, a player that needs to leave the scoring area must inform the Scoring Official of his intention to leave and immediately return.

17. **CLOSE OF COMPETITION:** The competition shall be deemed to have closed when all scores have been validated in the Scoring System and approved by the STPGA Rules Committee. In the event of a playoff, the competition shall be deemed to have closed when the playoff scores have been approved by the STPGA Rules Committee.