



Play is governed by the Rules of Golf of the United States Golf Association, and where applicable, by the following Local Rules; Conditions and Definitions. The complete text of the Rules and Section 8 Model Local Rules may be found in the Rules of Golf, effective January 1, 2019. See applicable Tournament Round Notice to Competitors for additional Local Rules. **Unless otherwise provided, penalty for breach of Local Rule is: Stroke Play – 2 strokes (General Penalty); Match Play - Loss of hole.**

LIST OF CONFORMING GOLF BALLS: Any ball the player uses shall be named on the current “List of Conforming Golf balls” of the USGA which can be found [HERE](#). Model Local Rule G-3.

- Penalty for breach of the rule: **DISQUALIFICATION**.

LIST OF CONFORMING DRIVERS: Any driver the player uses shall be named on the current “List of Conforming Driver Heads” of the USGA which can be found [HERE](#).

- There is no penalty under this Rule for merely having (but not making a stroke with) a non-conforming club or a club whose performance characteristics were deliberately changed during the round.
- Penalty for breach of this rule (making a stroke with a non-conforming club): **DISQUALIFICATION**.

PACE OF PLAY (UNDUE DELAY): Each competitor shall play without delay, per [Rule 5.6](#). A group losing more than their starting time interval will be subject to being timed (and penalty) by a IJGA Rules Official. The complete IJGA Pace of Play policy can be found [HERE](#).

CODE OF CONDUCT: Any of the following actions by an Association member at an Association event (sanctioned or unsanctioned), or toward another member anywhere, constitutes a violation of the Association Code of Conduct.

- Unsportsmanlike conduct, including abusive language, cheating, club throwing, disrespect to volunteers, officials or fellow competitors, or abuse of golf course property
- Not adhering to the dress code or host facility dress code
- Use or association with drugs or alcohol, smoking or chewing tobacco products
- Conduct not becoming of an Association player, such as acting in anger or creating other distractions
- Physical abuse, threat of physical abuse or verbal abuse, slander or libel toward other players, parents, coaches, sponsors, host golf course staff or members, Association staff or volunteers in any medium

Competitors taking any action listed as prohibited in the Code of Conduct are subject to any or all of the following*:

- One or more verbal or written warnings
- One-stroke penalty
- Disqualification and/or immediate removal from the event and facility as deemed appropriate by staff
- Suspension from Association participation

*Please note that the aforementioned list is NOT presented as a progressive discipline model. The Committee withholds the right to assign penalties from this list as it sees fit. Major breaches of the Code of Conduct may result in immediate disqualification or suspension without a preceding warning or penalty.

The full Code of Conduct policy can be found [HERE](#).

TIME OF STARTING: [Rule 5.3a](#) states the player must start at (and not before) the time established by the Committee. The penalty for breach of the Rule is **DISQUALIFICATION**, except in the following cases:

- Player Arrives at Starting Point, Ready to Play, Within 5 Minutes After Starting Time: The player gets the **GENERAL PENALTY**.
- Player Starts No More Than Five Minutes Early: The player gets the **GENERAL PENALTY**
- Committee Decides that Exceptional Circumstances Prevented Player from Starting on Time: There is no breach of this Rule and **NO PENALTY**.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES: The use of mobile telephones, personal music systems and the like are prohibited for use by participants in Association sanctioned event. Smart phones containing applications needed for medical purposes **ONLY** are permitted for use if a player or their parent notifies Association staff prior to the start of an event, and the use of the device is approved. Watches with communications capabilities, such as the iWatch, are not permitted during play. ANY participant found using the above devices during their stipulated round, without prior Association consent, will be **DISQUALIFIED**. Rangefinders are allowed as long as they do not measure slope.

NOTE: "Use" is defined as powered on and/or able to receive communications.

PLAYING TWO BALLS (DOUBT AS TO PROCEDURE): Under [Rule 20.1c \(3\)](#), If you are uncertain about the right procedure while playing a hole, you may complete the hole with two balls without penalty. The following conditions apply:

- You must decide to play two balls after the uncertain situation arises and before making a stroke.
- You should choose which ball will count if the Rules allow the procedure used for that ball, by announcing that choice to your marker or to another player before making a stroke.
- If you do not choose in time, the ball played first is treated as the ball chosen by default.
- You must report the facts of the situation to the Committee before returning your scorecard, even if you score the same with both balls. You are **DISQUALIFIED** if you fail to do so.

PRACTICE BETWEEN HOLES: 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, or test the surface of that putting green by rubbing the putting green or rolling a ball. Model Local Rule I-2.

- Penalty for breach of Rule is **GENERAL PENALTY**

IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS CLOSE TO PUTTING GREEN (I.E. SPRINKLER HEADS): Model Local Rule F-5 is in effect. When the ball is in the general area, the player may take relief under Rule 16.b if an immovable obstruction is on the line of play, and is:

- Within two club-lengths of the putting green, and
- Within two club-lengths of the ball.

Exception – No Relief If Line of Play Clearly Unreasonable.

ADVICE: Under [Rule 10.2a](#), any verbal comment or action (such as showing what club was just used to make a stroke) that is intended to influence you or another player in choosing a club, making a stroke, or deciding how to play during a hole or round. But advice does not include public information, such as the location of things on the course, the distance from one point to another, or the Rules. Players are responsible for the actions of their relatives and spectators in regards to this rule.

- Penalty for breach of Rule is **GENERAL PENALTY**

CADDIE: A player is prohibited from using a caddie during the stipulated round. Model Local Rule H-1.

- Penalty for Breach of Rule is **GENERAL PENALTY** for each hole during which he or she is helped by a caddie. If the breach happens or continues between two holes, the player gets the **GENERAL PENALTY** for the next hole.

SUSPENSION OF PLAY: Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule J-1. Signals for discontinuance and resumption of play are as follows:

- Immediate Suspension (Dangerous Situation) – One Prolonged Airhorn Blast
- Other Suspensions – Three Consecutive Airhorn Blasts
- Resumption of Play – Two Short Airhorn Blasts

Under [Rule 5.7](#), players have the right to stop play if they think weather threatens them, even though the Committee may not have specifically authorized it by signal. When play is suspended for a dangerous situation, if the players in a match or 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 facilities are deemed to be closed and will remain closed until the Committee has declared them open for use. Penalty for breach of this local rule: **DISQUALIFICATION**.

PROHIBITING MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION: Model Local Rule G-6. During a round, a player must not ride on any form of motorized transportation except as authorized or later approved by the Committee. Exceptions include designated shuttle holes and any other transportation offered by a Rules Official.

- Penalty for Breach of Local Rule: The player gets the **GENERAL PENALTY** for each hole during which there is a breach of this local rule. If the breach occurs between the play of two holes, it applies to the next hole.

DRESS CODE: The IJGA Dress Code Policy is in effect and will be enforced at all IJGA sanctioned events. The complete IJGA Dress Code is listed on the IJGA Website.

NONMETAL SPIKE POLICY: It is a requirement of the IJGA that all individuals participating in any IJGA sanctioned, sponsored, or co-sponsored event wear “spike-less, non-metal” golf shoes.

DECIDING TIES: In the event of a tie for 1st place in a Tour event, a hole-by-hole playoff will be conducted until one side wins a hole. When an on-course playoff is not feasible the tie will be broken by matching scorecards, following the procedure found below. For all remaining ties that receive trophies, the tie will also be broken by matching scorecards.

Matching scorecards will work as follows:

- If the tying players have different scores for the final round, the winner of the tie will be the player with the lower final round.
- If the tying players have the same score for the final round or if the competition consisted of a single round, we will determine the winner based on the score for the last nine holes, last six holes, last three holes, and finally the 18th hole if necessary.
- If there is still a tie, then the last six holes, three holes, and final hole of the first nine holes of the final round will be considered in turn.
- If this method is used in a competition with a multiple tee start, it is deemed that the “last nine holes, last six holes, etc.” are holes 10-18, 13-18, etc.
- Should this process still not result in a winner, the committee will decide the winner by chance.

RESULTS OF COMPETITION: In stroke play, scorecards must be signed and attested in the official scoring area immediately following play. Scores are official when a player leaves the scoring area. When all scores have been posted on the official scoreboard and approved by the IJGA Rules Committee, the results of the competition shall be deemed to have been announced and the competition officially closed.