



RULES OF PLAY AND INFORMATION – 2010

Minnesota Golf Association tournament play is governed by the *USGA Rules of Golf*, and by the following Local Rules and Definitions. Any changes or additions to these will be supplied on a *Notice to Competitors* and/or supplementary *Local Rules* sheet.

Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule or Condition is:

Match Play-Loss of Hole; Stroke Play-Two Strokes.

TIME OF STARTING - The player must start at the time laid down by the committee. If the player arrives at the starting point, ready to play within five minutes of his starting time, in the absence of circumstances which warrant waiving the penalty of disqualification as provided in Rule 33-7, the penalty for failure to start on time is loss of the first hole in match play or two strokes at the first hole in stroke play. If the player arrives after the five-minute period, the penalty is *disqualification*. Note to Rule 6-3a.

CONFORMING BALL RULE - Appendix 1 is in effect for all events. Penalty - *Disqualification*

LIMITATION ON GOLF BALLS - (“One Ball Rule”) Appendix 1 is in effect for all events unless otherwise noted.

PACE OF PLAY – The pace of play is governed by the MGA Pace of Play Policy and will be posted at the starting hole(s) of all MGA competitions.

DISCONTINUANCE OF PLAY - Signals:

Potentially dangerous situations - One prolonged air horn note, repeated.

Other types of suspension - Three consecutive air horn notes, repeated.

Resumption of play - Two short air horn notes, repeated.

When play is suspended for a potentially dangerous situation, play must discontinue immediately and must not resume until the Committee has ordered a resumption of play. All practice areas must be closed during suspension for a potentially dangerous situation until the Committee has declared them open.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF LOCAL RULE: *Disqualification.*

WATER AND LATERAL WATER HAZARD STAKES AND LINES-

Water hazards are defined by yellow stakes, flags or yellow lines. Rule 26-1.

Lateral water hazards are defined by red stakes, flags or red lines. Rule 26-1.

- When stakes, flags and lines are used to define water and lateral water hazards, stakes and flags identify hazards and lines define margins.
- When a lateral water hazard is defined on only one side, it is deemed to extend to infinity.
- When water hazards and lateral water hazards are 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. French drains are deemed to be ground under repair. Flowerbeds on the course also are deemed to be ground under repair. Rule 25-1.

OUT OF BOUNDS - Defined by nearest inside points of stakes, flags, fence posts, and masonry walls at ground level. When OB is defined by white line on the ground, the line itself is out of bounds. Rule 27-1.

OBSTRUCTIONS - An obstruction is anything artificial, including the artificial surfaces of roads & paths and white lined areas tying into them, except:

- A. Objects defining out of bounds, such as a wall, fences, stakes & railings;
- B. Any part of an immovable artificial object which is out of bounds; and
- C. Any construction declared by the committee to be an integral part of the course. See Rule 24.

TEMPORARY IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS - All tents, scoreboards, and other temporary equipment on the course, provided it is not readily movable, are considered to be Temporary Immovable Obstructions. The Local Rule as prescribed in Appendix 1 is in effect.

PRACTICE BETWEEN HOLES – In all stroke play competitions, between the play of two holes, a player must not play any practice stroke on or near the putting green of the hole last played. This does not preclude a player from finishing out a hole that his score may not be used in team competition. **PENALTY:** *Two Strokes at next hole.*

AUTOMOTIVE TRANSPORTATION – Unless otherwise permitted, players must not use automotive transportation during a round. Appendix 1 - Conditions of the Competition.

ELECTRONIC MEASURING DEVICES – The use of these devices is prohibited in MGA championships and qualifiers.

DOUBT AS TO PROCEDURE - Applies to stroke play only. If a competitor is doubtful of his rights or procedure, the competitor may play a second ball. Before taking further action, the competitor must announce to his marker or fellow-competitor his decision to proceed under this rule and with which ball he will score with if the rules permit. The player must report the facts to the Committee before returning his scorecard; if he fails to do so, he shall be *Disqualified*. Rule 3-3

OVERHEAD POWER LINES - If a ball strikes an overhead power line or cable, while in bounds, the player must disregard that stroke, abandon the ball and play another ball as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was played in accordance with Rule 20-5.

EMBEDDED BALL – The recommended Local Rule found in Appendix 1 is in effect for all MGA competitions.

REPORTING RESULTS - Upon completion of play, players should check their hole-by-hole score carefully. Both the player and the marker must sign the card and return it to the Committee in a prompt manner.

CLOSE OF COMPETITION - The competition shall be deemed to have closed when the trophy has been presented to the winner or, in the absence of a prize ceremony, when the Committee has approved all scores.

The Minnesota Golf Association's Executive and Tournament & Rules Committees authorize these Rules.

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