

SENIOR TOUR - MGA RULES OF PLAY AND INFORMATION

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN THE RULES OF GOLF IN 2008 THAT YOU MUST KNOW!

RULE 15-3 Because the rule has been changed and it is now a two stroke penalty to hit a wrong ball in a hazard, you may now, if necessary, lift the ball for identification and place back on the same spot in the same lie. You may clean the ball only as much as necessary for identification.

RULE 19-2 If a ball struck by a player is stopped by the player, caddie or equipment, the penalty is now 1 stroke, both in stroke and match play. Previously it was 2 strokes in stroke play and loss of hole in match play.

RULE 24-1 Now allows a player to pick up a flagstick if a moving ball may strike it. Previously you were penalized 2 strokes in Stroke Play for being a nice guy. As in the past, equipment of any player may also be moved without penalty.

RULES 24-3b, 25-1c, 26-1 The term "reasonable evidence" has been replaced by "known or virtually certain" with respect to determining whether a ball that has not been found may be treated as lost in an obstruction or an abnormal ground condition or in a water hazard. The strong wording almost requires the players or people to see the ball enter the above conditions.

Minnesota Golf Association Senior Tour Play is governed by the USGA Rules of Golf and by the following Local Rules and Definitions. **Additional Local Rules for each club will be distributed at each event.**

Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule or Condition is: Stroke Play-Two Strokes.

TIME OF STARTING - In an Individual event, the player shall start at the time and hole laid down by the Committee. If the player arrives at the starting point, ready to play before his group has completed their first hole, the penalty for failure to start on time is two strokes at the first hole in stroke play. If the player arrives after the first hole is completed, he is Disqualified. He may continue to play but cannot turn in a score.

LIMITATION ON GOLF BALLS - The One Ball Rule is not in effect.

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

WATER AND LATERAL WATER HAZARDS - Water hazards are defined by yellow stakes, flags or yellow lines. 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. Flower beds on the course are also deemed to be ground under repair. Rule 25-1.

DISCONTINUANCE OF PLAY - When play is suspended for a potentially dangerous situation, play must discontinue immediately and shall not resume until the Committee has ordered a resumption of play. All practice areas shall be closed during suspension for a potentially dangerous situation until the Committee has declared them open. Penalty for breach of suspended play rule is disqualification.

Discontinuance of Play Signals:

- Potentially Dangerous situation - One prolonged airhorn note.
- Other types of suspension - Three consecutive airhorn notes, repeated.
- Resumption of play - Two short airhorn notes, repeated.

YARDAGE DISTANCE RANGE FINDERS are permissible. You may tell others the yardage or let them use the equipment. You may not talk about club selection. Information about distance is not advice.

The Local Rule for stones in bunkers is NOT in effect!!!

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;
- C. Any construction declared by the Committee to be an integral part of the course. See Rule 24.

NO PRACTICE PUTTING RULE - Between the play of two holes, a player shall 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 in a stableford event where his score may not be used in a team competition. Penalty - Two Strokes at next hole.

DOUBT AS TO PROCEDURE - Applies to stroke play. A competitor may play a second ball if the competitor is doubtful of his rights or procedure. Before taking further action, the competitor must announce to his marker or fellow-competitor his decision to proceed under this rule and which ball he wishes to count if the rules permit. The player shall report the facts to the Committee before returning his score card even if he scores the same with both balls; if he fails to do so, he shall be Disqualified.

OVERHEAD POWER LINES - If a ball strikes an overhead power line or cable, 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 - Anywhere "through the green," a ball embedded in its own pitch-mark in the ground, except in loose sand, may be lifted without penalty, cleaned and dropped as near as possible to the spot where it lay but not nearer the hole. Appendix I - Local Rules.

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