



MINNESOTA GOLF ASSOCIATION

COVID-19 Local Rules

The following Local Rules will be in effect at all **MGA** events until the Committee deems them unnecessary.

These Rules are in addition to the terms of the competition and notice to players for each event.

POLICIES

CADDIES:

Caddies are NOT permitted until otherwise stated.

PRACTICING:

Practice Facilities – The general policy below allows players a window of access to the practice facilities on a limited time, priority basis. The intent of the policy is to provide a flow through the practice tee, short game area (if available), and putting green. Every player should have a fair and equitable opportunity to warm up prior to play, and should be respectful of fellow players when preparing to play.

- Players are first allowed on practice areas within **40 minutes** of their tee time. The suggested flow should begin with the practice tee for **20 minutes**, then to the short game area and/or putting green for the remainder of time before reporting to the tee. This will retain social distancing and prioritize access to each area.
- The number of players allowed on the putting green or in short game area will be restricted to the number of holes that have been cut in the greens. Flagsticks will be removed from both the putting green and short game greens.
- As the size and access to practice areas differ, this general policy may be adjusted for specific events. This will be communicated in the Notice to Competitors for each event.
- Practice at the host facility after a player's round is complete is **prohibited**.
- Disregarding these policies may result in action under the **Code of Conduct policy**.

LOCAL RULES

BUNKERS:

Any damaged area in a bunker is deemed Ground Under Repair, and the player may take full relief under GUR procedures (USGA Rule 16.1c) but must stay inside the bunker. NOTE - Rule 16.1 is modified in this way: Interference does not exist if the disturbed area in a bunker only interferes with the player's stance.

- Damaged areas include (but are not limited to) footprints and other disturbances that may have been caused by players, animals or other sources.
 - In the unlikely event there is nowhere to drop in the bunker without going closer to the hole, the player may drop at the nearest point of relief (without the one club-length) even if that spot is closer to the hole.
 - Reminder – Under Rule 16.1c, the player must drop the ball from knee height and is not permitted to place the ball. The player also has the option to play the ball as it lies.
 - **Under a Penalty of One Stroke**, the player may elect to drop behind the bunker along the line formed by the flagstick and the spot where the ball is at rest in the bunker, going back on the line as far as the player wishes.

FLAGSTICK:

For the safety and well-being of all, the flagstick is to not be touched and is to remain in the hole at all times. Rule 13.2 is modified in this way: A player is prohibited from making a stroke with the flagstick removed from the hole. NOTE: Touching the flagstick, the inadvertent removal and the subsequent replacement of the flagstick is not of itself a penalty. However, any person inadvertently touching the flagstick should take the appropriate precautions and use hand sanitizer at the earliest convenience.

Penalty for Breach of Local Rule:

- First Breach – *General Penalty*
- Subsequent Breaches – *Disqualification*



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COVID-19 Policies, Local Rules and Severe Weather Procedures

HOLED:

The definition of Holed is modified in this way: If any part of the ball is in the hole below the surface of the putting green, the ball is treated as holed even if the entire ball is not below the surface.

SCORING:

A player's digital scorecard is considered returned after verbally agreeing to the hole-by-hole scores and leaving the scoring area.

The following weather warning procedures will be in effect at all **MGA** events.

SEVERE WEATHER COURSE EVACUTION PLAN

SIGNALS

- **ONE (1) long blast** = Discontinue play *immediately*
- **TWO (2) short blasts** = Resume Play
- **THREE (3) short blasts** = Discontinue play for darkness, course conditions or other non-dangerous reasons

In the event of severe weather, players shall return to their vehicles **IMMEDIATELY**. Players on the furthest parts of the course may be offered a shuttle to return to the parking lot. If so, the MGA staff or volunteer should have face masks and hand sanitizer for players to use. Players **MUST** wear the face mask and use the hand sanitizer while on the shuttle cart. Communication regarding resumption of play will be sent by text message.