



TERMS OF COMPETITIONS – 2020

Minnesota Golf Association tournament play is governed by the *Rules of Golf* and by the following Terms of Competition and Definitions. Any changes or additions to these will be supplied on a *Notice to Players* and/or supplemental *Local Rules* sheet.

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

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

PRACTISING BETWEEN HOLES (Stroke Play Only) – Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule I-2: “Rule 5.5b is modified in this way: Between the play of two holes, a player must not (1) make any practice stroke on or near the putting green of the hole last played, or (2) Test the surface of that putting green by rubbing the putting green or rolling a ball.” This does not preclude a player from finishing out a hole where the score may not be used in team competition. **PENALTY: *Two Penalty Strokes applied to the next hole.***

PRACTISING BEFORE & BETWEEN ROUNDS (Stroke Play Only) – Prior to and after a round in stroke play, a player may practise on the designated practice areas. Rule 5.2b covering practice in stroke play is modified in this way. Model Local Rule I-1.1: “A player must not practice on the competition course before or between rounds.” **PENALTY: 1ST Breach – *Two Penalty Strokes applied to the player’s first hole.* PENALTY: 2ND Breach – *Disqualification.***

PACE OF PLAY (Rule 5.6b); Stroke Play and Match Play) – The pace of play is governed by the MGA Pace of Play Policy and will be posted on the webpage associated with each competition and at the starting hole(s) of all MGA competitions. **PENALTY: 1ST Breach – *One Stroke;* 2ND Breach – *General Penalty;* 3RD Breach – *General Penalty;* 4TH Breach – *Disqualification.***

PLAYING TWO BALLS WHEN UNCERTAIN WHAT TO DO (Rule 20.1c(3); Stroke Play Only) – A player who is uncertain about the right procedure while playing a hole may complete the hole with two balls without penalty by following the procedure found in Rule 20.1c(3). The player **MUST** report the facts to the Committee before returning the scorecard; the player is ***Disqualified*** if he or she fails to do so.

RELIEF ON OPPOSITE SIDE OF RED PENALTY AREA – Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule B-2

REPLACEMENT OF CLUB THAT IS BROKEN OR SIGNIFICANTLY DAMAGED – Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule G-9

CONFORMING BALL RULE – Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule G-3. **PENALTY: *Disqualification.***

ACCIDENTAL MOVEMENT OF A BALL – If a ball that is in play and at rest on the course moves, the player should refer to Rule 9.2. **NOTE:** If a ball on the putting has been lifted and been replaced, the ball **MUST** be replaced on its original spot no matter the cause for the movement, no penalty. **EXCEPTION:** If the ball begins to move during the backswing or stroke and the stroke is made, see Rule 9.1b.

WRONG SCORE FOR A HOLE – The Exception to Rule 3.3b(3) is as follows: “If one or more of the player’s hole scores are lower than the actual scores because he or she excluded one or more penalty strokes that the player did not know about before returning the scorecard: (1) the player is not disqualified, and (2) if the mistake is found before the close of competition, the Committee will revise the player’s score for that hole or holes by adding the penalty stroke(s) that should have been included in the score for that hole or holes under the Rules. This is not true if the penalty is ***disqualification*** or when the player was told a penalty might apply or was uncertain if one would apply and did not raise this with the Committee before returning the scorecard.”

WOOD CHIPS & MULCH (Rule 15) – Are loose impediments.

OBSTRUCTION – Any artificial object ***except*** for integral objects and boundary objects.

WHITE-LINED AREAS TYING INTO ARTIFICIALLY SURFACED ROADS AND PATHS – White-lined areas of ground under repair and the artificially surfaced roads, paths or other identified obstructions that are connected to are a single abnormal course condition when taking relief under Rule 16.1.

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. Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule F-23.

GROUND UNDER REPAIR (Rule 16) – Defined by white lines or otherwise listed on the Local Rules Sheet. French drains and cultivated flower and shrubbery beds on the course are ground under repair even if not so marked.

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.

PENALTY AREAS (Rule 17) – Penalty areas **are marked as either red or yellow.**

- When stakes or flags and lines are used to mark penalty areas, the stakes or flags *identify* penalty areas and lines *define* them.
- When a penalty area is defined on only one side, it is deemed to extend to infinity.
- When a penalty area is connected to the out of bounds edge, the penalty area extends to and coincides with the out of bounds.

OUT OF BOUNDS (Rule 18) – Defined by the line between the course-side points, at ground level, of white stakes, fence posts and white lines (if used to define the boundary). If both stakes and lines are used to define the boundary, the stakes *identify* the boundary and the line *defines* the boundary. Stakes used to define or identify a boundary are not immovable obstructions and may not be removed.

SUSPENSION OF PLAY SIGNALS –

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 dangerous situation, play must discontinue *immediately* and must not make another stroke until the Committee resumes play. All practice areas are closed during suspension for a dangerous situation until the Committee declares them open. **PENALTY: *Disqualification.***

MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION – Unless otherwise permitted by the Terms of the Competition, Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule G-6: "During a round, a player or caddie must not ride on any form of motorized transportation **except** as authorized or later approved by the Committee." **PENALTY: *General Penalty for each breach. If between holes, applies to the next hole.***

BALL DEFLECTED BY POWER LINE – Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule E-11: "If it is *known or virtually certain* that a player's ball hit a power line during play, the stroke does not count. The player must play a ball without penalty from where the previous stroke was made." However, a ball striking a tower, pole or support wire without striking the power line itself, or striking the power line when out of bounds, must be played as it lies. There is no line of flight relief from these obstructions.

REPORTING RESULTS (Stroke Play Only) – Upon completion of play, the player should check the hole scores entered by the marker and raise any issues with the Committee, make sure the marker certifies the hole scores on the scorecard, must not change a hole score without the marker's agreement or Committee's approval and must certify the hole scores on the scorecard and promptly return it to the Committee. When electronic scoring is being used in addition to a paper scorecard, scores entered on the scorecard will serve as the official scores for the player.

CLOSE OF COMPETITION – The competition is final when the trophy has been presented to the winner or, in the absence of a prize ceremony, when all scores have been approved by the Committee. The result of a match is final when the Committee has approved the result and published the results on the public scoreboard.

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

Amended – May 2019

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