



2021 LOCAL RULES & TERMS OF THE COMPETITION (REVISED JANUARY 1, 2021)

The *Rules of Golf* as approved by the United States Golf Association and The R&A govern play. These Local Rules and Terms of the Competition are in effect at all Georgia PGA competitions and qualifying rounds. See applicable tournament or qualifying round Notice to Players and Entry Application for modifications or additions to these Local Rules and Terms of the Competition. Complete text of the Rules and Local Rules may be found in the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf, effective January 2019.

Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule is the general penalty.

(Match Play - Loss of Hole - Stroke Play - Two Strokes)

1. Out of Bounds – Rule 18

- Defined by the line between the course-side points, at ground level, of the white stakes, fence posts and/or white lines.
- When the inside edge of a road or curb defines out of bounds, a ball that crosses such boundary is out of bounds even though it may lie on another part of the course.

2. Penalty Areas – Rule 17

- Penalty Areas are identified by yellow stakes and defined by yellow lines and/or are identified by red stakes and defined by red lines.
- Back-On-the-Line Relief: Model Local Rule E-12 is in effect. This applies in the application of Rules 16.1c(2), 17.1d(2), 19.2b or 19.3b. When taking back on the line relief from a penalty area, the reference point must be outside that penalty area.
- Relief on Opposite Side of Red Penalty Areas: Red penalty areas with an opposite side relief option will be indicated, **if applicable**, on the “Notice to Players”. Model Local Rule B-2.1.

Note: When the edge of a red penalty area coincides with the boundary of the course, Model Local Rule B-2.2 is in effect and modifies the first paragraph of Model Local Rule B-2.1.

3. Abnormal Course Conditions – Rule 16

- Defined by areas completely encircled with white lines.
- French drains filled with stones.
- Seams of cut turf. Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule F-7. Lie of ball and area of intended swing, not stance.
- Bunker Liners. An exposed liner is treated as ground under repair by the Committee under Rule 16.1. But interference does not exist if the liner only interferes with the player’s stance.

4. Immovable Obstructions – Rule 16

- White lined areas tying into obstructions are deemed to have the same status as the obstruction and are not ground under repair.
- Landscaped garden areas completely encircled by an obstruction are part of the obstruction.
- Mats secured to the ground and rubber or plastic bumpers covering cables.
- When railroad ties, curbing or the like adjoin artificially surfaced roads or paths, they are deemed to be part of the road or path.
- Bird houses

5. Integral Objects

Include cables, rods, wires or wrappings when closely attached to trees, artificial walls and pilings when located in penalty areas or adjacent to bunkers.

6. BALL PLAYED FROM PUTTING GREEN HITS PLAYER, CLUB USED OR ANIMAL DEFINED AS LOOSE IMPEDIMENT

The Model Local Rule D-7 is in effect.

7. Wood Chips and Mulch — Are loose impediments.

8. Elevated Power Lines, Poles, Towers or Cables

Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule E-11. If a ball strikes a permanent elevated power line, pole, tower or cable, the stroke must be canceled and replayed, without penalty. If the ball is not immediately recoverable another ball may be substituted.

9. Temporary Immovable Obstructions –

Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule F-23. (Includes temporary immovable obstructions installed for the competition and fans).

10. Specifications of Clubs and the Ball

- Replacing Club that is Broken or Significantly Damaged – Model Local Rule G-9 is in effect.
- List of Conforming Driver Heads – Model Local Rule G-1 is in effect. Penalty for making a stroke with club in breach of this Local Rule – Disqualification.
- List of Conforming Golf Balls – Model Local Rule G-3 is in effect. Penalty for making a stroke with a ball in breach of this Local Rule – Disqualification.
- One Ball Rule is **not in effect** unless noted on the Notice to Players- Model Local Rule G-4.

11. Pace of Play (Rule 5.6b(3)) See posted GPGA Pace of Play Guidelines and for pace of play penalties.

12. Suspension of Play Due to a Dangerous Situation Rule 5-7b

All practice areas are closed during the suspension for a dangerous situation until the Rules Committee has declared them open for use. Players who disregard such closing will be subject to disciplinary action by the Section Tournament Committee.

NOTE: A suspension and resumption of play will be signaled by:

- Discontinue Play Immediately: One Prolonged Signal Note
- Discontinue Play: Three Consecutive short notes
- Resume Play: Two short signal notes

13. Practice

- Before or between rounds in stroke play - Model Local Rule I-1.1 is in effect and Rule 5.2b is modified as follows: A player must not practice on the competition course, but may practice on the designated practice areas. Penalty for breach of Local Rule, see Rule 5.2.
- Between holes in stroke play - Model Local Rule I-2 is in effect and Rule 5.5b is modified as follows:
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.

Note: This Local Rule is not in effect for a Pro-Am that does not count in the official competition.

14. How to Decide Ties

In the event of a tie for the Championship a hole-by-hole playoff will take place ten-minutes following all scores being approved by the Committee. Unless otherwise provided in the competition’s “Notice to Players.”

15. Scoring Area and Returning Scorecard

- a. The scoring area may include, but is not limited to tents or rooms and may be designated by ropes/stakes and/or the blue lines/dots, or the like.
- b. For the purpose of applying Rule 3.3b(2), A player's/team's scorecard is deemed to have been returned when the player has relinquished possession of the scorecard to the Committee and has exited the immediate scoring area with both feet. Prior to returning the scorecard, a player that needs to leave the scoring area must inform the Committee of his/her intention to leave and immediately return.

16. Application of the Exception to Rule 3.3b(3) Following the Cut:

The cut for any Georgia Section, PGA of America Championship is official when the following round's pairings have been approved and published by the Event Rules Committee, the Event Rules Committee is the onsite Rules Committee for each specific event. Once the field has been reduced, and the pairings have been approved and published, no additions to the field will be made.

If a player's breach of Rule 3.3b(3) is discovered after the cut is official, and the addition of penalty strokes, from a round prior to the cut, results in the player's score being higher than the cut score, the player will be withdrawn from the field and will be considered to have missed the cut. Any such player is ineligible for any "made the cut" prize money, points or other benefits.

17. Close of Competition

The competition shall be deemed to have closed when all scores have been posted on the official scoreboard and approved by the Rules Committee. In the event of a playoff, the competition shall be deemed to have closed when the playoff scores have been approved by the Rules Committee.

18. Consumption of Alcohol

The consumption of alcohol is strictly prohibited in any Georgia PGA tournament. Any player violating this policy may be withdrawn from the event immediately. Players who disregard this policy will be subject to disciplinary action by the Georgia PGA Tournament Committee.

19. Cell/Smart Phone:

Cell/Smart phones and other electronic devices shall be turned off or to a silent condition during the players stipulated round. Conversational use shall be limited to emergency use only or to call for a ruling.

Cell/Smart phones may be used for live scoring or to check the on-line leaderboard of the event being played.

Text or email function may only be used for critical or very important issues providing there is no audible sound and the use does not distract other players.

Any player deemed by a tournament official to be distracting play will be asked to discontinue all use of their cell/smart phone for the remainder of the stipulated round. If a player continues to use their phone they will be withdrawn from the event immediately.

Any player delaying play due to non-emergency use of a cell/smart phone or any other electronic device will be subject to penalty under Rule 5.6b.

PGPA PACE OF PLAY GUIDELINES

DEFINITION OF OUT OF POSITION: The first group to start will be considered out of position if, at any time during the round, they exceed the time allotted to play, as detailed on the applicable Pace of Play Time Chart.

Any subsequent groups will be considered out of position if, at any time during the round, they (a) exceed the allotted time to play and (b) reach a par-3 hole that is open and free of play or reach a par-4 or par-5 and have not played a stroke from the teeing ground before the hole is open and free to play. Both (a) and (b) must apply for a group to be out of position.

NOTE: The Rules Committee reserves the right to time a group/individual when the Rules Committee deems it necessary. Further, if a player is determined by the Rules Committee to be unreasonably slow he may be timed individually at the Rules Committee's discretion, regardless of whether his group is out of position or over time par. If a group is out of position but not over time par the Committee reserves the right to ask the group to get back into position with the group(s) in front of them.

TIMING: When the Rules Committee determines that a group or an individual will be timed, all players in the group, or the specific individual, will be informed they are being timed. A group or an individual will be informed after leaving the teeing ground and before any further strokes. Timing will discontinue when the group has regained its position. Any timing exceeding the allotted time to play will be carried over for the remainder of the round.

Other than on the putting green, the timing of a player's stroke will begin when it is his turn to play and he can play without interference or distraction. Time spent determining yardage will count as time taken for the next stroke.

On the putting green, timing will begin after the player has been allowed a reasonable amount of time to mark, lift, clean and replace his ball, repair his ball mark and other ball marks on his line of putt and remove loose impediments on his line of putt. Time spent looking at the line from beyond the hole and/or behind the ball will count as time taken for that stroke.

NOTE: A player is permitted 40 seconds to play a stroke, and an extra 10 seconds (for a total of 50 seconds) will be allowed for: (a) the first player to play a stroke on a par-3; (b) the first player to play a second stroke on a par-4 or par-5; (c) the first player to play a third stroke on a par-5; (d) the first player to play around the putting green; and (e) the first player to play on the putting green.

PENALTIES: Any player in a group being timed, who exceeds the applicable time to play a stroke, will be informed as soon as practicable and is subject to the following penalties:

FIRST OFFENSE: Warning SECOND OFFENSE: One (1) Stroke Penalty

THIRD OFFENSE: Two (2) Stroke Penalty FOURTH OFFENSE: Disqualification

NOTE: IF YOU WISH TO KNOW YOUR POSITION, PLEASE ASK A GEORGIA PGA OFFICIAL.

GEORGIA PGA RULES COMMITTEE