



GEORGIA

2026 LOCAL RULES & TERMS OF THE COMPETITION

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 2023. (inc. current "Additional Clarifications of the 2023 Rules of Golf") (Rev 1/30/26)

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 18.2

- a. Defined by the line between the course-side points, at ground level, of the white stakes, fence posts and/or white lines.
- b. 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. Model Local Rule A-5 is effect.

2. Penalty Areas – Rule 17

- a. Penalty Areas are identified by yellow stakes and defined by yellow lines and/or are identified by red stakes and defined by red lines.
- b. Opposite side relief is available when a ball last crossed the edge of a red penalty area **when listed on the applicable Notice to Players** under Model Local Rule B-2.1.
- c. Opposite side relief is available when a ball last crossed the edge of a red penalty area that **coincides with out of bounds** under Model Local Rule B-2.2.

3. Abnormal Course Conditions – Rule 16.1

- a. Defined by areas completely encircled with white lines.
- b. French drains filled with stones.
- c. Seams of cut turf. Model Local Rule F-7 is in effect. Lie of ball and area of intended swing, not stance.
- d. 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.
- e. Aeration holes – If a ball lies in or touches an aeration hole, free relief is available: MLR E-4 is in effect.
- f. Embedded Ball Rule 16.3 is modified as follows:
 - i. Model Local Rule F-2.2 is in effect. Free relief is not allowed when a ball is embedded in a stacked turf face or artificial stacked turf face above a bunker.
 - ii. Model Local Rule F-2.3 is in effect. Relief may be available when it is known or virtually certain that a ball is embedded in any player's pitch-mark in the general area in an area cut to fairway height or less.

4. Immovable Obstructions – Rule 16.1

- a. White lined areas tying into obstructions are deemed to have the same status as the obstruction and are not ground under repair.
- b. Landscaped garden areas completely encircled by an obstruction are part of the obstruction.
- c. Mats secured to the ground and rubber or plastic bumpers covering cables.
- d. When railroad ties, curbing or the like adjoin artificially surfaced roads or paths, they are deemed to be part of the road or path.
- e. 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. Wood Chips and Mulch — Are loose impediments.

7. Animal Near Ball - Model Local Rule E-13 is in effect. An animal, other than those defined as a loose impediment, may be removed. If the ball moves there is no penalty, and the ball must be replaced.

8. Elevated Power Lines, Poles, Towers or Cables -

Model Local Rule E-11 is in effect and is modified as follows: If it is known or virtually certain that a player's ball hit a power line, tower or a wire or pole supporting a power line in bounds, the stroke does not count and must be replayed under Rule 14.6. If the player does not replay the stroke, the player is assessed the general penalty and the stroke counts, but they have not played from a wrong place.

9. Reduced Penalty When Player Unaware Ball Moved

Model Local Rule E-14 is in effect and applies only when the player is unaware, before the stroke is made, that the ball might have moved.

10. Temporary Immovable Obstructions – (TIOs).

Model Local Rule F-23 is in effect.

- a. Either side relief is available as an extra option for the Line of Sight Interference for TIOs listed on the applicable "Notice to Players". Note: This option does NOT apply to a player taking physical interference relief under 16.1.
- b. Drones – If it is known or virtually certain that a player's ball hit a drone in flight and in bounds, the player must replay the stroke (see rule 14.6). If the player does not replay the stroke, the player is assessed the general penalty and the stroke counts, but they have not played from a wrong place.

11. Specifications of Clubs and the Ball

- a. 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.
- b. 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.
- c. **One Ball Rule is not in effect** unless noted on the Notice to Players- Model Local Rule G-4.
- d. Replacing Club that is Broken or Significantly Damaged – current revised Model Local Rule G-9

12. Prohibiting the Use of Certain Types of Shoes

a. Model Local Rule G-7 is in effect.

13. Starting Round and Pace of Play

- a. **Official starting time** is displayed on the clock on the starting tee or is provided by the Committee. Rule 5.3a
- b. **Pace of Play (Rule 5.6b(3))** See posted GPGA Pace of Play Guidelines and for pace of play penalties.

14. Transportation: GPGA Cart Policy is in effect unless otherwise noted on the Notice to Players.

15. 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:

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

16. Practice

a. **Before or between rounds in stroke play** - Model Local Rule I-1.2 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.

b. **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:

- i. Make any practice stroke on or near the putting green of the hole just completed, or
- ii. 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.

17. 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."

18. 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. **Electronic Scoring:** Each Player in each group will be assigned to keep the score of one of the other players on the BlueGolf Mobile App via their phone. There will not be any paper scorecards distributed. Each player is encouraged to keep their own score on a separate scorecard so they can verify their scores after play. In compliance with Rule 3.3b(2) - *"Players responsibility: Certifying hole scores and returning scorecard"* the following process accomplishes that requirement. A score will be considered "Returned and Official" once the player has confirmed their hole by hole scores with the Georgia PGA scoring official, signed the Score Verification Sheet at the scoring table and left the scoring area.

19. MISSING PLAYER OR MARKER CERTIFICATION: Model Local Rule L-1 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.

20. 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.

21. 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.

22. 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.

23. Cell/Smart Phone and other electronic devices (ED):

- a. EDs 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.
- b. EDs may be used for live scoring or to check the on-line leader board 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.
- c. Any player deemed by a tournament official to be distracting play will be asked to discontinue all use of their EDs for the remainder of the stipulated round. If a player continues to use their EDs they will be withdrawn from the event immediately. Any player delaying play due to non-emergency use of a ED will be subject to penalty under Rule 5.6b.

GPAG 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 pay-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