



**2026 LOCAL RULES AND TERMS OF THE COMPETITION.  
THESE APPLY TO COMPETITIONS ON THE PGA TOUR,  
PGA TOUR CHAMPIONS, KORN FERRY TOUR and  
PGA TOUR AMERICAS**

The Rules of Golf effective January 1, 2023, govern play.  
See the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf for Model Local Rule references.  
See the applicable weekly Notice to Players for additional Local Rules.

**1. Out of Bounds - Rule 18.2**

- a. A ball coming to rest on or beyond a road defined as out of bounds is out of bounds, even though it may lie on another part of the course, under Model Local Rule A-5.
- b. Closed gates attached to a boundary are part of the boundary object under Model Local Rule F-26.

**2. Penalty Areas - Rule 17**

- a. Dropping Zones, labeled "DZ", are listed on the applicable Notice to Players and are relief areas under Model Local Rule E-1.1.
- b. Opposite side relief is available when a ball last crossed the edge of a red penalty area 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**

- a. Ground Under Repair includes:
  - i. Areas completely encircled with white lines or otherwise specified.
  - ii. Drainage ditches filled with stones (French drains).
  - iii. Seams of cut turf (but no relief for stance) under Model Local Rule F-7.
  - iv. Grass-covered cable trenches under Model Local Rule F-22.
  - v. A hole made by a movable obstruction (microphones, stakes, signs, tripods, tables, chairs, etc.) may be treated as ground under repair by the Committee (but no relief for stance).
- b. Immovable Obstructions include:
  - i. White-lined areas tying into an obstruction.

- ii. Landscaped or garden areas completely encircled by an obstruction.
  - iii. Roads or paths artificially surfaced with wood chips or the like.
  - iv. Where the non-golf course side of a road or path defines out of bounds, the road or path is an obstruction.
  - v. Non-permanent bridges unless otherwise defined on the applicable Notice to Players.
- c. Removal of Temporary Water - Model Local Rule J-2 is in effect and is modified as follows: When temporary water accumulates on the putting green, the player may take relief under Rule 16.1d, or request the Committee to squeegee their line of play when their ball lies on the putting green, or adjacent to it, in any area of the course. The Committee may squeegee a putting green between groups at its discretion.
- d. 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. 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.

**5. Immovable Obstructions and Holes Close to Putting Greens**

Model Local Rule F-5.2 is in effect and is modified as follows: For a ball in the general area, relief may be taken under Rule 16.1b when both the ball and obstruction lie in an area cut to fairway height or less. The obstruction must be:

- i. On or within two club-lengths of the putting green,
- ii. On the player's line of play, and
- iii. The ball must be within two club-lengths of the obstruction.

Interference under this Local Rule also applies to holes left by movable obstructions when the hole is treated as ground under repair by the Committee under item 3a(v).

**6. Green Reading Material Restrictions**

Model Local Rule G-11 is in effect, except for an amateur playing only in a Pro-Am portion of the official competition. Approved materials include:

- i. Committee approved yardage books since January 1, 2022.
- ii. Committee approved hole location sheets, and
- iii. A map of the entire course no larger than letter or A4 sized paper.

Note: MLR G-11 is not in effect for an open qualifying round.

**7. Integral Objects**

- a. Bunker Liners - Note: An exposed liner may be treated as ground under repair by the Committee (but no relief for stance).
- b. The portion of cables, wires, wrappings, or other objects when closely attached to trees or objects defining out of bounds. Any portion of a temporary object not closely attached may be treated as a temporary immovable obstruction by the Committee.
- c. Artificial retaining walls and/or pilings located within penalty areas.
- d. Artificial retaining walls and/or pilings located on the edge of bunkers, but such objects are not part of the bunker.
- e. Artificial stacked turf faces above bunkers.
- f. Sponsor displays floating or within water in penalty areas. Lines or cables anchoring them are temporary cables.

**8. Permanent Elevated Power Lines**

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 in bounds, the player must replay the stroke (see Rule 14.6). If the player does not replay the stroke, they get the general penalty and the stroke counts, but he has not played from a wrong place.

**9. Temporary Lines and Cables**

Model Local Rule F-22 is in effect and is modified as follows: mats fastened in position and bumpers covering cables are immovable obstructions. Cables located within grass-covered trenches are movable obstructions.

**10. Temporary Immovable Obstructions - (TIOs)**

- Model Local Rule F-23 is in effect.
- a. Either side relief is available as an extra option for line of sight interference from TIOs listed on the applicable Notice to Players.
  - b. Either side relief is available as an extra option for line of sight interference from ShotLink camera tripods or communication antennas when they are standing alone, tied together, or virtually touching each other. This excludes such objects when tied into or attached to other structures, trees, or objects defining out of bounds.
  - c. 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, they get the general penalty and the stroke counts, but he has not played from a wrong place.

**11. Clubs and the Ball**

- a. List of Conforming Driver Heads - Model Local Rule G-1 is in effect.
- b. Groove and Punch Mark Specifications - Model Local Rule G-2 is in effect but is modified as the exception to G-2 does NOT apply.
- c. List of Conforming Golf Balls - Model Local Rule G-3 is in effect.
- d. One Ball Rule - Model Local Rule G-4 is in effect, except for an amateur playing only in a Pro-Am portion of the official competition.
- e. Replacing Club that is Broken or Significantly Damaged - revised Model Local Rule G-9, effective January 1, 2026, is in effect.
- f. 46-inch Club Length Limitation - Model Local Rule G-10 is in effect, except for an amateur playing only in a Pro-Am portion of the official competition.  
Note: MLR G-10 is not in effect for an open qualifying round.

**12. Stopping Play; Resuming Play - Rule 5.7**

Model Local Rule J-1 is in effect as follows:

- a. One blast of horn: Immediate suspension for a dangerous situation.
- b. Three short blasts of horn: Suspension for non-dangerous situation.
- c. Two short blasts of horn: Resume play.  
Note: During an immediate suspension for a dangerous situation, all practice areas are closed until the Committee declares them open.

**13. Practice - Rule 5**

- 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.
- b. Between holes in stroke play - Model Local Rule I-2 is in effect and Rule 5.5b is modified as follows: A player must not make any practice stroke on or near the putting green of the hole just played or test the surface of that putting green by rubbing the green or rolling a ball.

**14. Distance-Measuring Devices (DMDs)**

- a. Model Local Rule G-5 is in effect on the PGA TOUR only. During a round, distance-measuring devices must **not** be used, except for an amateur playing only in a Pro-Am portion of the official competition.
- b. Distance-measuring devices are permitted on the PGA TOUR Champions, Korn Ferry Tour, PGA TOUR Americas, in any open qualifying round, and for an amateur playing in a Pro-Am portion of the official competition on any Tour.  
Note: The term of the competition, Limitations on Distance-Measuring Devices, as referenced in the applicable Tour's regulations handbook is in effect.

**15. Transportation**

Model Local Rule G-6 is in effect and is modified as follows: A player or caddie must not ride on any transportation except as authorized on the applicable Notice

to Players or later approved by the Committee. A player operating under a stroke and distance penalty is always authorized.

Note: PGA TOUR Champions cart policy is in effect for competitions on that Tour only, unless otherwise specified on the applicable Notice to Players.

**16. 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.

**17. Scoring in Stroke Play**

Model Local Rule L-1 is in effect and modifies the penalty for a missing signature(s) under Rule 3.3b(2).

**18. Starting Round and Pace of Play - Rule 5.3a and Rule 5.6b(3).**

- a. Official starting time is displayed on the clock on the starting tee or is provided by the Committee.
- b. 2026 Pace of Play policy as referenced in the applicable Tour's regulations handbook is in effect.

**TERMS OF THE COMPETITION**

**19. Deciding Ties** - In event of a tie for first place, unless otherwise specified, a hole-by-hole stroke-play play-off will determine the winner immediately following the last round.

**20. Scorecard Returned** - The term of the competition, Scorecard Returned, as referenced in the applicable Tour's regulations handbook is in effect. The scorecard of a player or a side is returned to the Committee 15 minutes after the scorecard is accepted into the electronic scoring system. If a mistake is discovered before it is accepted into the scoring system and the player, or member of the side, is not present to correct the mistake, the scorecard is returned 15 minutes after that mistake is discovered, with exceptions applying as outlined within the term.

**21. When Result of Competition is Final** - The competition is final when all scores have been validated in the scoring system by the scoring official and approved by the Committee. In the event of a play-off, the competition is final when the play-off scores are approved by the Committee.

**PGA TOUR RULES COMMITTEE  
PGA TOUR CHAMPIONS RULES COMMITTEE  
KORN FERRY TOUR RULES COMMITTEE  
PGA TOUR AMERICAS RULES COMMITTEE**

**FINAL**

**THE FOLLOWING LOCAL RULES AND TERMS OF THE  
COMPETITION APPLY IN CO-SPONSORED TOURNAMENTS**

**Movable Obstructions** - include but are not limited to:

- i. Gallery ropes, gallery stakes, hole indicator signs, spectator crossing signs, mobile vendor carts, cameras not fastened in position, tripods not fastened in position, microphones, portable generators, non-display vehicles, tables, chairs, and trash containers.
- ii. Single sections of metal barricade, picket fencing or the like that are not fastened in position.

**Abnormal Course Conditions** - include but are not limited to:

a. Painted dots, logos, or symbols in a part of the general area cut to fairway height or less are ground under repair (but no relief for stance).

**b. Immovable Obstructions**

- i. Railroad ties, curbing or the like adjoining artificially surfaced roads or paths are part of the road or path.
- ii. Stakes, ropes, wires, or other objects supporting trees or tree limbs, provided they are not closely attached. The tree or tree limb is not part of the obstruction.
- iii. The portion of a temporary object closely attached to an immovable obstruction is part of the immovable obstruction. The portion not closely attached is either a movable obstruction or a TIO.

**Temporary Immovable Obstructions (TIOs)** – include but are not limited to:

- i. Tents, grandstands, hospitality structures, scoreboards, towers, platforms, tripods fastened in position, cameras fastened in position, antennas fastened in position, lavatories, display vehicles, tee backdrop signs or structures. Temporary landscaping associated with any of the above items are part of the TIO, however, within such landscaping, individual potted plants are movable obstructions and individual pieces of mulch, pine straw or the like are loose impediments.
- ii. Multiple sections of barricade or picket fencing that are linked together and do not define out of bounds, whether fastened in position or not.
- iii. The portion of a temporary object closely attached to a TIO is part of the TIO. The portion not closely attached is an obstruction.
- iv. White-lined areas tying into a TIO are treated as part of the TIO.
- v. Multiple TIOs are treated as one single TIO when i) they are tied together with a white line, or ii) they are touching or virtually touching each other.

**Scoring in a Pro-Am played as the Official Competition**

- i. The professional player is the marker and scoring is in accordance with Rule 23.2. (Scoring in Four-Ball).
- ii. In a Pro-Am competition, the gross scores to count must be individually identifiable; otherwise, the side is disqualified.
- iii. Only one partner needs to certify the hole scores on the side's scorecard under Rule 3.3b(2) and Rule 23.2b(1).
- iv. Item 20, Scorecard Returned, applies but is based on the actions of the professional player.