



SOUTHERN  
CALIFORNIA

## **Southern California PGA Local Rules and Terms of Competition Version 1.26**

The Rules of Golf effective January 2023 govern play, and where applicable, by the following Local Rules and Terms of the Competition.

See the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf for Model Local Rules references.

See the applicable competition's "Notice to Players" for additional definitions, Local Rules or amendments.

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

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

Defined by the line between the course-side points, at ground level, of white stakes and fence posts.

**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**

When a penalty area is defined on only one side, it extends to infinity. When a penalty area is connected to the out of bounds edge, the penalty area extends to and coincides with out of bounds.

#### **a. Dropping Zones:**

If a ball is in or it is known or virtually certain that a ball that has not been found is in a penalty area

and a drop zone is specified on the applicable "Notice to Players" for that penalty area, the player may as an additional option, drop a ball under penalty of one stroke, in the white lined area labeled "Drop Zone" located as indicated on the applicable "Notice to Players". The ball must be dropped in and come to rest within the drop zone. Model Local Rule E-1.1.

**b.** Opposite side relief is available for red penalty areas will be indicated 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 the out of bounds under Model Local Rule B-2.2.

### **3. Abnormal Ground 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 – Model Local Rule F-7 is in effect. If a player's ball is in the general area and the ball lies in or touches a seam of cut turf or a seam interferes with the player's area of intended swing, the player may take relief under Rule 16.1b. But interference does not exist if the seam only interferes with the player's stance.

**iv.** A hole made by a movable obstruction (stakes, signs, tables, chairs or the like) may be treated as ground under repair by the Committee. But inference does not exist if the hole only interferes with the player's stance.

#### **b. Immovable Obstructions include:**

**i.** White lined areas tying into an obstruction are treated as a single abnormal course condition when taking relief under Rule 16.1.

**ii.** Mats fastened in position and bumpers covering cables.

**iii.** Landscaped or garden areas (flower beds, shrubbery or the like) completely encircled by

an obstruction, the obstruction and the landscaped area are treated as one abnormal course condition.

**iv.** Roads or paths surfaced with wood chips or the like.

**v.** Where the non-golf course side of a road or path defines out of bounds, the road or path is an obstruction.

#### **c. Removal of Temporary Water:**

Model Local Rule J-2 is in effect.

If a ball lies on the putting green and there is interference by temporary water on the putting green, the Committee may:

- i.** Squeegee the line of play on the putting green.
- ii.** Squeegee the putting green between groups.
- iii.** Only when authorized by the Committee, squeegee the putting green when a ball lies adjacent to the putting green in any area of the course

Note: Such squeegeeing should be done across the line of play and extend a reasonable distance beyond the hole and only be carried out by individuals designated by the Committee. The Committee may squeegee the putting green at any time.

**d. Embedded Ball – Model Local Rule F-2.2 is in effect. Rule 16.3 is modified as follows: Free relief is not allowed when a ball is embedded in a stacked turf face above a bunker.**

### **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 Close to Putting Green**

Model Local Rule F-5.2 is in effect. For a ball in the general area, relief may be taken under Rule 16.1b only when both the ball and the immovable obstruction lie in an area cut to fairway height or

less. The obstruction must be located:

- 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.

## 6. Integral Objects

- a. Bunker Liners. An exposed liner may be treated as ground under repair by the Committee under Rule 16.1. But interference does not exist if the bunker liner only interferes with the player's 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.

## 7. Permanent Elevated Power Lines 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 in bounds, the stroke does not count. The player must play a ball without penalty from where the previous stroke was made in accordance to Rule 14.6. If the player does not replay the stroke, they get the general penalty and the stroke counts, but the player has not played from a wrong place.

## 8. Temporary Immovable Obstructions (TIOs)

Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.

Model Local Rule F-23.

- a. Either side relief is available as an extra option for line of sight interference from TIOs listed on

the applicable Notice to Players.

## 9. Clubs and the Ball

- a. List of Conforming Driver Heads – Model Local Rule G-1 is in effect.
- b. List of Conforming Golf Balls – Model Local Rule G-3 is in effect.

## 10. 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 provided by the Committee.
- b. SCPGA Pace of Play Policy is in effect.

## 11. Stopping Play; Resuming Play – Rule 5.7

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

- a. One long 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. Players who disregard such closing are subject to disciplinary action.

## 12. Practice – Rule 5

- a. 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.

- b. Between hole 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.

## 13. 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).

## TERMS OF THE COMPETITION

### 14. Deciding Ties

In the 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.

### 15. Scorecard Returned

A player's scorecard has been returned to the Committee when the player has exited the defined 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 intention to leave and immediately return.

### 16. When Result of Competition is Final

The competition is final when all scores have been approved by the Committee. In the event of a playoff, the competition is final when the playoff scores have been approved by the Committee.

### 17. Code of Conduct

By signing an official entry form, registering online, or verbally committing to compete in a SCPGA event, the player agrees to abide by the prescribed Rules of Conduct that can be found in Article III of the SCPGA Tournament Rules & Regulations. Violations of the Rules of Conduct can result in a fine and/or loss of playing privileges.

