



## **LOCAL RULES AND TERMS OF THE COMPETITION – 2025**

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* at the specific championship site.

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

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

**REPORTING RESULTS (Stroke Play Only)** – “Digital” scoring will be the method by which scores are entered and returned to the Committee. Upon completion of play, the player should check the hole scores entered by the marker and raise any issues with the Committee and must ensure the marker certifies the scores. The player must not change a hole score without the marker’s agreement or Committee’s approval and must certify the hole scores promptly with the Committee.

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

**PRACTICING BEFORE & BETWEEN ROUNDS (Stroke Play Only)** – **Model Local Rule I-1.2** as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.

**PRACTICING BETWEEN HOLES (Stroke Play Only)** – **Model Local Rule I-2** as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.

**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: 1<sup>ST</sup> Breach – *Warning*; 2<sup>ND</sup> Breach – *One Penalty Stroke*; 3<sup>RD</sup> Breach – *General Penalty*; 4<sup>TH</sup> Breach – *Disqualification*.**

**LIST OF CONFORMING BALLS** – **Model Local Rule G-3** as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.

**INTEGRAL OBJECTS** – Include cables, rods, wires and wrappings when closely attached to trees, and artificial walls and pilings when located in penalty areas or in or adjacent to bunkers, and bunker liners. An exposed bunker liner may be treated as ground under repair, but interference does not exist if the liner interferes only with the player’s stance.

**GATES IN BOUNDARY FENCES AND WALLS** – **Model Local Rule F-26** as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.

**WOOD CHIPS & MULCH** – Are loose impediments.

**GROUND UNDER REPAIR** – 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** – **Model Local Rule F-7** as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.

**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 to which they are connected are treated as a single abnormal course condition when taking relief under Rule 16.1.

**BALL DEFLECTED BY ELEVATED POWER LINE** – **Model Local Rule E-11** as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. 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.

**ANIMAL NEAR BALL** – Model Local Rule E-13 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.

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

**PENALTY AREAS** – Penalty areas are marked as either red or yellow.

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

**OUT OF BOUNDS** – 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 mark the boundary, the stakes *identify* and the lines *define* the boundary. When stakes used to define or show the boundary edge, they are boundary objects. When a wall is used to define the boundary, the boundary will be determined by the inside (golf course side) of the wall at ground level.

**SUSPENSION OF PLAY SIGNALS** –

Immediate suspension - One prolonged air horn note, repeated.

Normal suspension - Three consecutive air horn notes, repeated.

Resumption of play - Two short air horn notes, repeated.

When play is suspended for a dangerous situation, players must stop play *immediately* and must not make another stroke until the Committee signals a resumption of play. All practice areas are closed during an immediate suspension for a dangerous situation until the Committee has declared them open. **PENALTY: Disqualification.** NOTE: Players who practice on closed practice areas will be asked to stop practicing; failure to stop practicing might result in disqualification.

**MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION** – Unless otherwise permitted by the Terms of the Competition, **Model Local Rule G-6** as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect and includes the exception that always authorizes riding when a player is operating under penalty of stroke and distance.

**PROHIBITING USE OF CERTAIN TYPES OF SHOES** – **Model Local Rule G-7** as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.

**WHEN COMPETITION IS FINAL** – 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 (including a digital scoreboard).

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

*Amended – January 2025*

**MINNESOTA GOLF ASSOCIATION, INC.**

6550 York Avenue South, Suite 411

Edina, Minnesota 55435-2347

[www.mngolf.org](http://www.mngolf.org)

Phone: (952) 927-4643