

Play is governed by the Rules of Golf effective January 2019, and their interpretations and clarifications as approved by the USGA and the R & A and by the following Local Rules and Terms of the Competition. Committee Procedures refers to the Committee Procedures section in the current *Official Guide to the Rules of Golf*. The Committee refers to the Michigan Section PGA Rules Committee.

Unless otherwise provided, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule or Condition is;

Match Play – Loss of hole

Stroke Play – Two strokes.

1. **Stopping Play; Resuming Play** – Rule 5.7

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

- a. Immediate Suspension (**Dangerous situation**): **One prolonged note** of the air horn.
- b. Normal Suspension (Non-Dangerous situation): Three short notes of the air horn or communicated verbally to players by an official.
- c. Resume Play: Two short notes of the air horn.

Note: During an immediate suspension for a **dangerous situation**, all practice areas are **closed** until the *Committee* has declared them open. Players who disregard such closing are subject to disciplinary action.

- d. **Removal of Temporary Water on the Putting Green:**
If a player's ball lies on the *putting green* and there is interference by *temporary water* on the *putting green* the player may:
 - Take free relief under Rule 16-1d or
 - Have their *line of play* squeegeeSuch squeegeeing should be done across the line of play and extend a reasonable distance beyond the hole (that is at least one roller length) and only be carried out by individuals designated by the *Committee*.
Note: The *Committee* may squeegee the *putting green* at any time.

2. **Specifications of Clubs and the Ball:**

- a. **List of Conforming Driver Heads** – Any driver the player uses to make a *stroke* must have a clubhead, identified by model and loft, which is on the current List of Conforming Driver Heads issued by the USGA
Penalty for making a *stroke* with club in breach of this Local Rule – Disqualification.
- b. **List of Conforming Golf Balls** – Any ball used in making a *stroke* must be on the current List of Conforming Golf Balls issued by the USGA.
Penalty for making a *stroke* with a ball in breach of this Local Rule is disqualification.
- c. The "One Ball Rule" is not in effect.

3. **Restrictions on Practice**

- a. **Before or Between Rounds:**
Rule 5.2 is modified in this way: A player must not practice on the competition *course* before or between *rounds*.
Penalty for Breach of this Local Rule:
Penalty for first breach: General Penalty (applied to the player's first hole).
Penalty for second breach: Disqualification.

b. **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.

4. **Out of Bounds – Rule 18.2:**

- a. Beyond any wall, fence, white stakes or white lines defining the boundary of the *course*. Defined by the *course* side points of white stakes and/or property fence posts at ground level.
- b. When the inside edge of a road or curb is defined as *out of bounds*, a ball that crosses such a boundary is *out of bounds* even if it lies on another part of the *course*.

5. **Abnormal Course Conditions** – Rule 16.1.

a. **Ground Under Repair:**

- i. Areas completely **encircled by a white line**. (except dropping zones)
- ii. **Flower beds**
- iii. **French drains**, which are trenches filled with rocks or stones.
- iv. **Newly trenched areas**
- v. **Seams of cut turf**; If a player's ball lies in or touches a seam of cut turf or a seam interferes with the player's area of intended swing in the *general area*, the player may take relief under Rule 16.1b.
But interference does not exist if the seam **only** interferes with the player's *stance*.

All seams within the area of cut turf are treated as the same seam in taking relief. This means that if a player has interference from any seam after *dropping* the ball, the player must proceed as required under Rule 14.3c(2) even when the ball is within one club-length of the reference point.

b. **Immovable Obstructions:**

- i. **Asphalt and artificially surfaced roads and paths.**
White lined areas of *ground under repair* tying into such roads or paths are treated as a single *abnormal course condition* when taking relief under Rule 16.1
- ii. When landscaped garden areas (flower beds, shrubbery, or the like) are completely encircled by an obstruction, the obstruction and landscaped area are treated as one abnormal course condition.
- iii. **Railroad ties, curbing** or other similar artificial edges adjoining cart paths are part of the same *obstruction*.

c. **Integral Objects (Free relief not allowed):**

- i. **Artificial retaining walls** and/or pilings when located in penalty areas.
- ii. **Wires, cables, wrappings, signs and lightning rods** closely attached to trees or objects defining *out of bounds*.
- iii. **Bunker liners** in their intended position.
Note: The *Committee* may treat an exposed liner, not in its intended position, to be *ground under repair*, but interference does not exist if a liner only interferes with the player's *stance*.

- d. **Temporary Immovable Obstructions:** Model Local Rule F-23 in Committee Procedures is in effect and includes any Temporary Immovable Obstruction installed for the competition.

6. **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, cable or the tower or pole supporting such lines when the towers, poles or lines are in bounds, the *stroke* does not count. The player must play a ball without penalty from where the previous *stroke* was made in accordance with Rule 14.6.

Terms of the Competition

7. Returning Scorecard

For the purpose of applying Rule 3.3b(2), a player's scorecard is treated as returned when the player has first left the scoring area with both feet.

8. When the Result of the Competition is Final

When all scores have been posted on the official scoreboard and approved by the Committee, the competition is closed.

9. Pace of Play: Rule 5.6b (3)

See posted MPGA Pace of Play Guidelines for pace of play and penalties.

10. Local Rule G-9 for Replacement of Club that is Broken or Significantly Damaged

Model Local Rule G-9

"Rule 4.1b(3) is modified in this way:

If a player's club is "broken or significantly damaged" during the round by the player or caddie, except in cases of abuse, the player may replace the club with any club under Rule 4.1b(4).

When replacing a club, the player must immediately take the broken or significantly damaged club out of play, using the procedure in Rule 4.1c(1).

For the purposes of this Local Rule:

- A club is "broken or significantly damaged" when:
 - the shaft breaks into pieces, splinters or is bent (but not when the shaft is only dented)
 - the club face impact area is visibly deformed (but not when the club face is only scratched)
 - the clubhead is visibly and significantly deformed
 - the clubhead is detached or loose from the shaft, or
 - the grip is loose.

Exception: A club face or clubhead is not "broken or significantly damaged" solely because it is cracked.

Penalty for Breach of Local Rule – See Rule 4.1b."

11. Model Local Rule E-12:

Ball Played From Outside Relief Area When Taking Back-On-the-Line Relief

"When taking Back-On-the-Line relief, there is no additional penalty if a player plays a ball that was *dropped* in the *relief area* required by the relevant Rule (Rule 16.1c(2), 17.1d(2), 19.2b or 19.3b) but came to rest outside the *relief area*, so long as the ball, when played, is within one *club-length* of where it first touched the ground when *dropped*.

This exemption from penalty applies even if the ball is played from nearer the hole than the *reference point* (but not if played from nearer the *hole* than the spot of the original ball or the estimated point where the ball last crossed the edge of the *penalty area*).

This Local Rule does not change the procedure for taking Back-On-the-Line relief under a relevant Rule. This means that the *reference point* and *relief area* are not changed by this Local Rule and that Rule 14.3c(2) can be applied by a player who drops a ball in the right way and it comes to rest outside the *relief area*, whether this occurs on the first or second drop."

Cell Phone Policy

It is recommended that cell phones be turned off and stored in the player's bag. If there is a situation where the player needs to use the phone their intentions should be announced to other players.

Alcohol Policy

Alcohol consumption is not allowed during a round for the Michigan PGA, Michigan Open, Michigan Open Qualifiers, Michigan Section Match Play, Tournament of Champions, Michigan Section Assistants Championship, Senior PGA, Senior Open and Women's Open.

Automotive Golf Car Rules

1. Players who choose to walk, must walk the entire round and employ a caddie to carry their clubs.

2. Players who choose to ride, must have their clubs transported on a golf car, and must ride from each tee to the area of the drive .

Note: All players must ride during team events

3. A person authorized by a player to drive the golf car is considered the caddie of the player. A caddie may or may not ride in the golf car.

4. Golf cars should not be taken from the car staging area until both players have arrived and are ready for play. Maximum of two golf cars per pairing, unless otherwise permitted. Maximum of two people in or on a golf car.

5. Any golf cars not employed by players must be authorized by the Tournament Committee Chairman, Executive Director, Tournament Supervisor, Event Sponsor, or Host Facility.

Note: Due to terrain and/or distances between greens and tees, some courses are not conducive to walking. Section Staff will work with the tournament chairman, event chairman and host professional to make this determination. Players will be notified in advance if walking will not be permitted it will also be noted on the Local Rules sheet.

Unless otherwise provided, PENALTY for breach of an **Automotive Golf Car, Cell Phone Policy and the Alcohol Policy** is:

First Offense – Warning

Second Offense - Match Play – Loss of hole and Stroke Play – Two strokes.

Third Offense - Disqualification

In the event of a breach between the play of two holes, the penalty applies to the next hole.

Code of Conduct

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