



2026 MICHIGAN PGA
Conditions of Competition
Local Rules & Automotive Golf Car Rules



Play is governed by the Rules of Golf effective January 2023, and where applicable 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. **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*.
2. **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.
3. **Abnormal Course Conditions and Integral Objects**
 - a. **Ground Under Repair:**
 - i. Any area **encircled by a white line** (except dropping zones or *out of bounds*).
 - ii. **Flower beds**
 - iii. **Newly trenched areas**, including grass-covered cables.
 - iv. **French drains**, which are trenches filled with rocks or stones.
 - v. 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, on the putting green the player may take relief under Rule 16.1d 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. (MLR F-7)
 - 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. **Railroad ties, curbing** or other similar artificial edges adjoining cart paths are part of the same *obstruction*.
 - iii. **Roads or paths surfaced with wood chips or mulch are immovable obstructions** ; the individual pieces of wood chips are *loose impediments*
 - c. **Immovable Obstructions Close to Putting Greens**

For a ball in the general area, relief is allowed only when both the ball and the immovable obstruction lie in an area cut to fairway height or less. The player may take relief under Rule 16.1b if an immovable obstruction is: On the line of play, and is:
- On or within two club-lengths of the putting green, and
- Within two club-lengths of the ball.
Exception – There is no relief under this Local Rule if the player chooses a line of play that is clearly unreasonable. (MLR F-5.2)
 - d. **Integral Objects (Free relief not allowed):**
 - i. **Artificial retaining walls** and/or pilings when located in penalty areas.
 - ii. **The portion of wires, cables, wrappings, signs and lightning rods** closely attached to trees or closely attached to 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.
 - e. **Temporary Immovable Obstructions:** Model Local Rule F-23 in Committee Procedures is in effect and includes any Temporary Immovable Obstruction installed for the competition.
4. **Restrictions on Use of Specific Equipment:**
 - 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. **Groove & Punch Mark Specifications:** Model Local Rule G-2 is in effect. Penalty only for making a Stroke with Club in Breach of this Local Rule: Disqualification. No Penalty for carrying a club in breach of this rule.
 - c. **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.
The "One Ball Rule" is not in effect.

5. **Special Relief Procedures**
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. (MLR E-13)

6. **Restrictions on Practice**
 - a. **Before or Between Rounds:**
Rule 5.2 is modified in this way: Except for match play competitions, 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.

7. **Procedures for Bad Weather and Suspensions of Play**
 - a. **Methods for Stopping and Resuming Play:** A suspension for a dangerous situation will be signaled by one prolonged note of a horn. All other suspensions will be signaled by three consecutive notes of a horn. In either case, resumption of play will be signaled by two short notes of a horn. See Rule 5.7. (MLR J-1)
Note: All practice areas are closed during an immediate suspension for a dangerous situation until the Committee has declared them open.
 - b. **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 squeegeed
Such 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. (MLR J-2)
Note: The Committee may squeegee the putting green at any time

8. **Returning Scorecard:**
 - a. **Scoring Area:** For the purpose of applying Rule 3.3b(2), a player's scorecard is treated as returned when the player has first left the defined scoring area with both feet.
 - b. **Modification of Penalty Under Rule 3.3b(2) for Missing Player or Marker Certification:** If a player returns a scorecard without the hole scores being certified either by the player, the marker or both, the player gets the general penalty (two penalty strokes). The penalty applies to the last hole of the player's round. (MLR L-1)

9. **When the Result of the Competition is Final**
The competition is final when all scores have been validated in the scoring system by the official and approved by the Committee

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.

Music Policy

Listening to music including through headphones and earbuds 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 with or without a caddie
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. 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 **Automotive Golf Car, Cell Phone Policy, Alcohol Policy and Music 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.