



MISSISSIPPI GOLF ASSOCIATION LOCAL RULES & TERMS OF COMPETITION



2026 MGA & MJGA

The Rules of Golf govern play. The following Local Rules and Conditions of Competition apply for all MGA & MJGA events, MGA & MJGA Sanctioned Events, and may be found in the current USGA Rules of Golf and Model Local Rules. In addition, each tournament or qualifying round will have a separate Notice to Players with information specific to that event.

**Unless otherwise provided, penalty for breach of a Model Local Rule or Condition:
Stroke Play - Two Strokes; Match Play - Loss of Hole**

LOCAL RULES

OUT OF BOUNDS: Defined by the line between the course-side points, at ground level, of white stakes and fence posts. Rule 18.2.

Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule A-3. A ball which crosses a public road defined as out of bounds and comes to rest beyond that road, is out of bounds, even though it may lie in another area of the course.

RED & YELLOW PENALTY AREAS: 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.

GROUND UNDER REPAIR: Defined by white lines. French drains are ground under repair. For grass-covered trenching, see Temporary Power Lines and Cables. Ground under repair may include areas of unusual damage, including areas where spectators or other traffic has combined with wet conditions to affect materially the ground surface, but only when so declared by an authorized member of the Committee. When immediately adjacent to an immovable obstruction, such an area is part of that obstruction.

SEAMS OF CUT TURF: Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule F-7. Relief for the Seam only. Relief available for lie of ball and area of intended swing only.

WOOD CHIPS AND MULCH: are loose impediments. Wood chips and mulch used for artificially surfaced roads/paths remain loose impediments. This right is not cancelled by the fact that when a path is constructed of wood chips and mulch it becomes an artificially surfaced path and thus an immovable obstruction.

INTEGRAL OBJECTS: Include cables, rods, wires and wrappings when closely attached to trees, and artificial walls and pilings when located in penalty areas and bunkers.

IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS: Include plastic bumpers on roads and paths, and mats secured to the ground with spikes when the bumpers or mats cover cables.

Includes asphalt and artificially surfaced roads and paths. White lined areas tying into roads and paths have the same status as the road or path; thus they are obstructions and not ground under repair. Railroad ties, curbing, or the like adjoining a cart path are deemed to be part of the cart path. Relief from ground netting and putting green liners is available for lie of ball and area of intended swing only.

PERMANENT ELEVATED POWER LINES AND 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 with Rules 14.6.

TEMPORARY IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS: Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule F-23. Relief from a TIO is allowed when there is physical interference or line of play interference from the TIO.

STOPPING & RESUMING PLAY: Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule J-1.

All practice areas are closed during an immediate suspension for a dangerous situation until the Committee has declared them open. Players who practice on closed practice areas will be asked to stop practicing; failure to stop practicing might result in disqualification.

An immediate suspension will be signaled by one prolonged airhorn note. All other types of suspension will be signaled by three consecutive airhorn notes. Resumption of play will be signaled by two short airhorn notes.

PRACTICE: Prior to and after a round in stroke play, a player may practice on the designated practice areas. Rule 5.2b covering practice in stroke play is modified in this way: A player may not practice on the competition course before. Penalty for breach of Local Rule, see Rule 5.2.

TERMS OF COMPETITION

DECIDING TIES: In the event of a tie for first place, unless otherwise specified, a hole-by-hole stroke-play playoff will determine the winner immediately following the final round.

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 Scoring Official of his intentions to leave and immediately return.

PACE OF PLAY: A player shall be subject to penalty if he/she unduly delays play. Notes under Rule 5.6 and Optional Condition as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule K. Pace of Play guidelines are usually published and distributed at MGA Competitions.

SPECIFIC CONDITIONS FOR MJGA EVENTS

STROKE LIMIT: - There will be a stroke limit of 10 on each hole for Boys & Girls Divisions D & E ONLY in MJGA Events. The penalty for Disqualification in Divisions D & E will be replaced with a maximum stroke limit on the hole where the serious breach occurred, the first hole for late to the tee, and the last hole for a scorecard improperly returned.

CLOSE OF COMPETITION: The competition is final when all trophies have 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 as posted on the public scoreboard.

CODE OF CONDUCT: Players (and their caddies) are to observe proper golf etiquette at all times. Any abuse or disrespect of fellow competitors, officials, spectators, employees of the host facility, or other persons conducting or attending a sponsored event can be grounds for disqualification from the event, and possible rejection of entry for future events. Such abuse may be verbal or physical or threat thereof and includes, but is not limited to: the use of obscene language, physical damage to property or equipment of a host facility, and being under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances during a competitive round.

MOTORIZED CARTS/CADDIES: MJGA Boys Divisions A, B, C, , & Girls will not be allowed to use motorized carts during their stipulated round. Both Girls & Boys Divisions D & E will be allowed to use motorized carts from the green to the next teeing ground. Division E will be allowed to have caddies at all events. Divisions Boys D & Girls D will be allowed to have caddies when playing only 9-holes. Divisions A, B, C, and Girls (13-18) will not be allowed to have a caddie at any time. If shuttles are permitted during a specific event, it will be listed on the Notice to Players.