

Local Rules and Terms of the Competition For 2024 NHGA Championships

The Rules of Golf as approved by the United States Golf Association and the R&A govern play. These Local Rules and Terms of the Competition are in effect at all NHGA Championships and qualifying rounds. See applicable championship or qualifying round Notice to Players, Entry Application and NHGA General Tournament Policies for modifications or additions to these Local Rules and Terms of the Competition. Complete text of the Rules and Local Rules may be found in the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf, effective January 2023.

Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule is the general penalty, (2 strokes in stroke play, loss of hole in match play).

LOCAL RULES

OUT OF BOUNDS: Defined by the line between the course-side points, at ground level, of white stakes/lines, fence posts, or other boundary objects.

Note: 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 on another part of the course, unless stated as otherwise in the Local Rules.

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. 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 the obstruction.

RELIEF FROM SEAMS OF CUT TURF: Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the committee procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule F-7.

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 that they are connected to are a single abnormal course condition when taking relief under Rule 16.1.

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.

TEMPORARY IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS: Local Rules as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule F-23.

IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS CLOSE TO THE PUTTING GREEN: Model Local Rule F-5 is in effect. The player may take relief under Rule 16.1b if an immovable obstruction is on the line of play AND is within two club lengths of the putting green and within two club lengths of the ball.

LIST OF CONFORMING DRIVER HEADS: Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule G-1.

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

BALL PLAYED FROM OUTSIDE RELIEF AREA WHEN TAKING BACK-ON-THE-LINE RELIEF: Model Local Rule E-12 is in effect.

PACE OF PLAY: See separate memorandum to players for pace of play policy, when applicable.

MISSING PLAYER OR MARKER CERTIFICATION: Model Local Rule L-1 is in effect.

USE OF AUDIO & VIDEO DEVICES: Model Local Rule G-8 is in effect. Players must not listen to or watch content of any nature on a personal audio or video device

TENTS, SIGNAGE, SPONSOR MATERIALS: Tents, signage, and other sponsor materials such as banners, vehicles, etc. are deemed to be Temporary Immovable Obstructions.

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 or between rounds. Penalty for breach of Local Rule, see Rule 5.2.

STOPPING AND RESUMING PLAY: Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule J-1. 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. All practice areas are closed during an immediate suspension for a dangerous situation until the Committee has declared them open. While play is suspended or otherwise stopped under Rule 5.7, a player must not make a practice stroke. A breach of this rule will result in a disqualification.

TERMS OF THE COMPETITION

RETURNING SCORECARD: For the purpose of applying Rule 3.3b, a competitor is considered to have returned his scorecard when he or she has first left the scoring area.

WHEN COMPETITION IS FINAL: When all scores have been posted on the official scoreboard and approved by the NHGA Rules & Competitions Committee, the results of the Competition are deemed to be official.