

RULES OF PLAY AND CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION FOR MASS GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Rules of the United States Golf Association govern play. See applicable Championship or Qualifying round Notice to Players and Entry Application for additional Local Rules and Conditions. Complete text of Rules and Appendix I may be found in the 2016 Rules of Golf.

Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule or Condition is: Match play – Loss of hole; Stroke play – Two strokes

RULES OF PLAY

OUT OF BOUNDS: Defined by inside points, at ground level, of white stakes, fence posts and white lines. Rule 27-1b.

WATER AND LATERAL WATER HAZARD STAKES AND LINES: When a water hazard or lateral water hazard is defined on only one side, it is deemed to extend to infinity. When a water hazard or lateral water hazard is bounded by out of bounds, the hazard margin extends to and coincides with the out of bounds line.

GROUND UNDER REPAIR: Enclosed white lined areas define ground under repair offering relief without penalty. Other areas of ground under repair, even though not so marked include: French drains (trenches filled with stones or the like).

CART PATHS: Cart paths are immovable obstructions. White-lined areas tying into cart paths have the same status as the paths, that of obstructions.

WOOD CHIPS AND MULCH: Are loose impediments, unless otherwise provided in Local Rules/Notice to Competitors.

EMBEDDED BALL: The Local Rule as prescribed in Appendix I is in effect.

INTEGRAL PARTS OF THE COURSE: Include cables, rods, wires or wrappings when closely attached to trees; artificial walls and pilings when located in hazards, unless otherwise provided for in Notice to Competitors/Local Rules.

SEAMS OF CUT TURF (SOD SEAMS): The Local Rule as prescribed in Appendix I is in effect.

DISTANCE-MEASURING DEVICES: The Local Rule as prescribed in Appendix I is in effect.

ACCIDENTAL MOVEMENT of a BALL on a PUTTING GREEN: Rules 18-2, 18-3 and 20-1 are modified as follows: When a player's ball lies on the putting green, there is no penalty if the ball or ball-marker is accidentally moved by the player, his partner, his opponent, or any of their caddies or equipment. The moved ball or ball-marker must be replaced as provided in Rules 18-2, 18-3 and 20-1.

Note: If it is determined that a player's ball on the putting green was moved as a result of wind, water or some other natural cause such as the effects of gravity, the ball must be played as it lies from its new location. A ball-marker moved in such circumstances is replaced."

WRONG SCORE for HOLE in STROKE PLAY: If a competitor returns a score for any hole lower than actually taken due to failure to include one or more penalty strokes that, before returning their score card, they did not know they had incurred, they are not disqualified. In such circumstances, the competitor incurs the penalty prescribed by the applicable Rule, but there is no additional penalty for a breach of Rule 6-6d.

CONDITIONS

LIST OF CONFORMING DRIVER HEADS: Optional Condition as prescribed in Appendix I is in effect.

LIST OF CONFORMING GOLF BALLS: Optional Condition as prescribed in Appendix I is in effect.

MASS GOLF PACE OF PLAY POLICY: In effect unless otherwise indicated on Local Rules/Notice to Competitors. NOTE: See Mass Golf Pace of Play Policy.

DISCONTINUANCE OF PLAY: Optional Condition as prescribed in Appendix I is in effect. All practice areas are closed during suspension for a dangerous situation until the Committee has declared them open. Players who practice on closed practice areas will be asked to cease doing so; failure to comply may result in revocation of entry.

SIGNALS:

DANGEROUS SITUATION: One prolonged air horn note.

ALL OTHER SITUATIONS: Three consecutive air horn notes, repeated.

RESUMPTION OF PLAY: Two short air horn notes, repeated.

UNBECOMING CONDUCT: Unbecoming conduct is, but not limited to: vulgarity, throwing equipment in anger, destruction of property, and verbal or physical abuse to any person. A player who is in violation may be subject to disqualification.

NO SHOW POLICY: Those players who fail to appear for their assigned tee time without notifying Mass Golf may be suspended from play in future Mass Golf championships. NO SHOWS also include any players who fail to turn in score cards or who withdraw during play without notifying an official and personally surrendering their score cards to that official.

PLAY-OFF: If a play-off for qualifying or alternate positions is required, the play-off will begin at the time and the hole designated by the Committee in charge after all players have completed the stipulated round. If conditions do not allow a play-off to occur or continue, there will be a matching of score cards as prescribed by the USGA method (Page 160 Section 10(c) of the USGA Rules of Golf). If this procedure does not produce a winner, the winner will be determined by lot. Any player who fails to report for a play-off will be relegated to last place in the tied group.

CLOSE OF COMPETITION: The competition is deemed to have closed 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 considered to have been "officially announced" when the Committee has approved the result as posted on the public scoreboard.

These rules and any local rules distributed by the Committee supersede anything printed on the host club's scorecard. The Committee in charge of this competition comprises those officials assigned by Mass Golf whose decisions are final.

