



# MASS GOLF

## LOCAL RULES AND TERMS OF THE COMPETITION FOR MASS GOLF TOURNAMENTS

The Rules of Golf as approved by the USGA and R&A Rules Limited govern play. These Local Rules and Terms of the Competition are in effect at all Mass Golf tournaments, championships and qualifying rounds. See applicable championship or qualifying round Notice to Players, Entry Application or Mass Golf Policies & Procedures 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.*

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

**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.

**RELIEF FROM SEAMS OF CUT TURF (SOD SEAMS):** 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 & 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.

**WOOD CHIPS AND MULCH:** Are loose impediments.

**ANIMAL NEAR BALL:** Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule E-13.

**INTEGRAL OBJECTS:** Include objects when closely attached to trees and boundary objects, and artificial walls and pilings when located in penalty areas or in or adjacent to bunkers, and bunker liners. An exposed bunker liner may be treated as ground under repair, but interference does not exist if the liner interferes with only the player's stance.

**IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS CLOSE TO PUTTING GREENS:** Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule F-5.2. For a ball in the general area, relief may be taken under 16.1b when both the ball and obstruction lie in an area cut to fairway height or less. The obstruction must be located: i.) On or within two club-lengths of the putting green, ii.) On the player's line of play, and iii.) The ball must be within two club-lengths of the obstruction.

**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.

**MISSING PLAYER OR MARKER CERTIFICATION:** Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule L-1.

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

**STOPPING AND 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 may 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 or between rounds. Penalty for breach of Local Rule, see Rule 5.2.

**CODE OF CONDUCT:** By submitting an entry for any Mass Golf administered competition, the contestant understands that his/her participation is at the sole discretion of Mass Golf. A contestant may be removed from any competition at the discretion of Mass Golf and The Committee at any time before or during the competition. Incidents of unbecoming conduct, or actions deemed to be detrimental to the "Spirit of the Game" are grounds for such removal and suspension from future Mass Golf administered competitions. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Willful damage of the golf course or golf course property.
- Offensive or unbecoming language.
- Public criticism of golf course or verbal abuse of Mass Golf staff, officials, volunteers, host club staff or other contestants.
- Potential endangerment and/or distraction of others.
- Conduct deemed unbecoming.

**PENALTY FOR BREACH OF CODE OF CONDUCT\*:**

First Offense: Warning | Second Offense: 1-Stroke Penalty | Third Offense: 2-Stroke Penalty | Fourth Offense: Disqualification

\*The Committee may disqualify a player at any time for serious misconduct in failing to meet the Code's standards.

**WHEN COMPETITION IS FINAL:** The competition is final when the trophy has been presented to the winner or, in 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.

**RETURN OF SCORECARD:** A player's scorecard is returned 15 minutes after the scorecard is accepted into the electronic scoring system in all cases except for four exceptions:

- Starting times have been released after a cut has been made.
- The player begins their next round.
- Any player has made a stroke to begin a play-off.
- The competition has closed.

Full details of this definition can be found in Mass Golf policies & procedures.