



LOCAL RULES AND TERMS OF THE COMPETITION

The Rules of Golf as approved by the United States Golf Association and the R&A govern play. Complete text of the Rules and Local Rules may be found in the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf, effective January 1, 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, at ground level, of white stakes and fence posts or white lines. When lines are present, the line defines the boundary of the OB. A ball that 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.

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. Penalty areas can be marked by yellow or red stakes or yellow or red paint. If the color of a penalty area has not been marked or indicated by the Committee, it is treated as a red penalty area.

GROUND UNDER REPAIR - Defined by white lines. French drains are ground under repair. Decorative Flowers and the beds they are in are ground under repair. Please note that these could be No Play Zones and will be noted on the Event specific Local Rules.

WHITE-LINED AREAS TYING INTO AND/OR BROKEN EDGES OF ARTIFICIALLY SURFACED ROADS AND PATHS

- White-lined areas of ground under repair and/or broken edges of 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.

AERIFICATION HOLES - Model Local Rule E-4 is in effect.

WOOD CHIPS AND MULCH - Are loose impediments.

IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS - Relief from interference by an immovable obstruction may be taken under Rule 16.1. Relief is also available if the ball lies in the general area and the obstruction is: on the line of play, within two club lengths of the putting green and is within two club lengths of the ball. Model Local Rule F-5

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. Artificial objects defined by the Committee as integral objects are not obstructions.

TEMPORARY IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS (TIO) - Relief for physical interference or line of play interference. Maintenance fans used to support air flow near a putting green & their supporting posts are deemed to be temporary immovable obstructions. Model Local Rule F-23.

BALL DEFLECTED BY A POWER LINE - If it is known or virtually certain that a player's ball hit a power line (or tower, or a wire or pole supporting a power line) during the play of a hole, the stroke does not count. The Player must play a ball without penalty from where the previous stroke was made (14.6).

RELIEF FROM SEAMS OF CUT TURF - Relief for a ball that lies in one of the cut turf seams, or if a seam interferes with the players area of intended swing. No relief for standing on seam only. Model Local Rule F-7.

CADDIES - A player must not have a caddie during the round. Modern Local Rule H-1.1

AUTOMOTIVE TRANSPORTATION - A player may be transported only between the play of two holes when returning for a stroke-and-distance penalty or for restroom breaks, and such transportation must be provided by the coach, tournament staff, volunteers, or other authorized individuals.

SHOES: MLR G-7 for Prohibiting use of Certain Types of Shoes is in effect.

DISTANCE-MEASURING DEVICES - A player and their coach (or Board of Education—authorized designee) may use a distance-measuring device to obtain distance information during a stipulated round. Use of the device to measure or gauge other playing conditions (such as elevation change, wind speed, or slope) is a breach of Rule 4.3.

TWO ADVICE GIVERS (Coaches) PERMITTED PER TEAM - Model Local Rule H-2 is in effect. Each team or individual must identify the advice giver to the Committee before players on the team or an individual asks for or receives advice from the advice giver. The advice giver must be designated by their institution's athletic department to perform coaching duties and must wear an identification band when provided. The team or individual may change its advice giver during the round, but must tell the Committee when it is doing so.

COACHING RESTRICTIONS – During a player's stipulated round, advice givers and coaches may be anywhere on the course except in a bunker prior to and during the player's stroke(s) and extraction. Once the ball has been played onto another area of the course, the coach may enter the bunker to rake it.

A student/golfer will receive the general penalty if assisted by any individual other than their designated advice giver who provides coaching or advice that could influence the player in determining play, the choice of club, or the method of making a stroke (Rule 10.2). Advice may only be given by the team's designated advice giver as authorized under the Rules of Golf.

See Coaches Policy for additional clarification.

TERMS OF COMPETITION

LIST OF CONFORMING GOLF BALLS — A ball used in making a stroke must be on the current List of Conforming Golf Balls issued by the USGA. A player may change the brand and model between holes or when a Rule permits.

SECTIONAL QUALIFIERS MAX SCORE OF 12 – In this Sectional Qualifier, the maximum score per hole is 12. Upon reaching 12 strokes—or when 12 is the only possible result—players must pick up and record 12.

CELL PHONE POLICY — Players may use cell phones only to obtain distance information, input scores for live scoring programs, contact a rules official with questions, or call a coach or tournament manager regarding health or safety issues; cell phones may not be used as a green-reading aid.

PACE OF PLAY — Each group is expected to maintain a pace of play not exceeding 15 minutes per hole. Falling behind the group in front does not by itself constitute slow play. If a group loses its position and fails to regain it within a reasonable time as determined by the Committee, the group will be placed on the clock. When on the clock, each player is required to make a stroke within 45 seconds once it is their turn to play. The penalty for the first breach is two strokes, the penalty for the second breach is an additional two strokes, and the penalty for the third breach is disqualification.

STOPPING AND RESUMING PLAY — Under the Local Rule in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures, all practice areas are closed during an immediate suspension for a dangerous situation until the Committee has declared them open. Players who practice during such a suspension will be instructed to stop, and failure to comply may result in disqualification. An immediate suspension of play will be signaled by one prolonged air horn note, the resumption of play will be signaled by two short air horn notes, and all other suspensions will be signaled by three consecutive air horn notes, otherwise noted on the Notice to Competitors.

SCORING - Golfers must use the OHSAA Golf app to enter scores, if a player lacks a device, their designated coach, or authorized representative must submit scores on a timely basis.

MISSING PLAYER/MARKER CERTIFICATION - Model local rule L-1 - modification of penalty under rule 3.3b(2) for missing player or marker certification is in effect.

PLAYER RESPONSIBILITY AND PENALTIES - All players are required to comply with the Rules of Golf, the OHSAA Golf app scoring procedures, and all conditions of competition as established by the Committee. Failure to do so may result in penalty under Rule 1.2 (Standards of Player Conduct and Code of Conduct) or disqualification under Rule 1.3b(1) if the breach involves a condition of the competition.

DECISION OF TIES

TEAM - Ties for qualifying positions will be resolved by comparing the 5th player's score; the team with the lower 5th score is the winner. If a team does not have a 5th score, the team with a 5th score will be the winner. If still tied, a playoff will be held using four players selected by each coach. The playoff will be individual stroke play, beginning after all rounds are completed, with the starting time treated as official. Hole order will be set by the Committee. If the tie does not affect the number of qualifiers, order of play for the next tournament will be determined in this order: better 5th score, 4th score, 3rd score, 2nd score, 1st score, then coin toss.

INDIVIDUALS - Sudden Victory Playoffs will be conducted as individual stroke play immediately following the completion of all rounds, with the playoff time treated as a starting time. The Committee will determine the hole order after play concludes. If the tie does not affect the number of qualifying individuals, the USGA tie-break procedure (last 9, 6, 3, and final hole played versus par) will be used to determine order of play for the next tournament. For OHSAA events, Holes 10–18 will serve as the last nine regardless of the starting hole. When ties occur for award positions, this same tie-break procedure will be applied to determine the allocation of individual awards.

COMPETITION IS FINAL - The competition is deemed to have closed when either the winners have been announced/presented trophies or, in the absence of such a ceremony, when the Committee has approved all scores.

COACHES' POLICY


ROLE OF THE COACH

Coaches are designated advice givers under the Rules of Golf (Rule 10.2 and Model Local Rule H-2). Their role is to support players while maintaining the integrity of the competition and the pace of play.

PERMITTED ACTIONS

- Provide verbal advice to their players, including club selection, strategy, and decision-making.
 - Carry and provide support items such as food, drinks, umbrellas, towels, medical supplies, and scorecards.
 - Use and share distance information through distance-measuring devices (DMDs), provided the device only measures distance (not slope, wind, or other conditions).
 - Assist with Rules questions, pace of play reminders, and general encouragement.
 - Enter a bunker only after the player's ball has been played out, for the sole purpose of raking.
 - When authorized, pull a club from a player's bag, mark a golf ball, place back the golf ball, clean a golf ball, tend the flagstick, move equipment or other movable items to prevent interference
 - Move freely on the course unless otherwise restricted by the Committee.
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PROHIBITED ACTIONS

- Acting as a caddie, including carrying or transporting a player's clubs, handling clubs during play, or pushing/pulling a bag.
- Assisting with alignment, such as standing on the line of play, line of putt, or directly positioning the player. 
- Using or providing non-conforming devices, such as rangefinders with slope, wind, or club-selection features.
- Entering a bunker during a player's stroke or before the ball has been played onto another area of the course.
- Supplying or encouraging use of non-conforming equipment, including prohibited green-reading materials, clubs, or balls.
- Offering advice or assistance to players outside their team.
- Other Prohibited Actions include teeing off the Golf Ball, dropping the Golf Ball.



ENFORCEMENT

- Coaches are expected to uphold these standards at all times.
- Breaches may result in removal of coaching privileges, penalties to players under Rule 10.2, or other disciplinary action as determined by the Committee.