Local Rules & Terms of the Competition

For 2026 Carolinas Golf Association Tournaments

The Rules of Golf as approved by the USGA and The R&A govern play. These Local Rules and Terms of the Competition are in effect at all CGA Championships and qualifying rounds. See applicable championship or qualifying round Notice to Players and Entry Information for modifications or additions to the following. The complete text of the Rules and Local Rules may be found in the current Rules of Golf, effective January 2023.

Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule or Condition is the general penalty.

CADDIES PROHIBITED – Caddies are **NOT** permitted. Model Local Rules H-1.1.

LIST OF CONFORMING DRIVER HEADS –Model Local Rule G-1 is in effect.

ONE BALL RULE & GROOVES AND PUNCH MARK SPECIFICATIONS – These Local Rules are **NOT** in effect.

LIST OF CONFORMING GOLF BALLS –Model Local Rule G-3 is in effect.

PROHIBITING USE OF METAL SPIKES –Model Local Rule G-7 is in effect. Penalty for breach of Local Rule – see Rule 4.3.

RESOLVING RULES ISSUES DURING ROUND – Players must not unreasonably delay play when seeking help with the Rules during a round. If the Committee is not available in a reasonable amount of time to help with Rules issue, the player must decide what to do and play on. The player may protect their rights by asking for a ruling in **match play** (Rule 20.1b (2)) or by playing two balls in **stroke play** (Rule 20.1c (3)).

OUT OF BOUNDS – Defined by the line between the course-side points, at ground level, of white stakes or fence posts; by white lines on the ground that connect stakes or roads; by the course-side edge of paved roads and beyond, even if ball comes to rest on another part of course (Model Local Rule A-5). ***Note:*** Where two white stakes used to define OB are placed approximately one yard of each other, the OB extends to infinity in that direction based on the course side edge of two white stakes.

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.

RELIEF ON OPPOSITE SIDE OF RED PENALTY AREA COINCIDING WITH OUT OF BOUNDS – For a ball in a red penalty area that coincides with OB, the player may drop the original ball or another ball on the opposite side of the penalty area within two club lengths of a point equal distance from the hole as point where the ball last crossed the edge of penalty area on boundary side. Model Local Rule B-2.2.

GROUND UNDER REPAIR – Defined by white lines. Ground under repair also includes French drains and newly trenched areas, even if not marked as such. An exposed bunker liner may be treated as a movable obstruction or ground under repair, but interference does not exist if a bunker liner only interferes with the player's stance.

RELIEF FROM SEAMS OF CUT TURF –Model Local Rule F-7 is in effect.

WHITE-LINED AREAS TYING INTO ARTIFICALLY SURFACED ROADS AND PATHS – White-lined areas of ground under repair that are tied into artificially surfaced roads, paths or other identified obstructions, they are treated as a single abnormal course condition when taking relief under Rule 16.1. Model Local Rule F-3.1.

FLOWER BEDS SURROUNDED BY IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS – Where decorative flower beds are surrounded by an artificially surfaced road or path (including everything growing within that area), they are treated as a single abnormal course condition when taking relief under Rule 16.1. Model Local Rule F-3.3.

INTEGRAL OBJECTS – Include cables, rods, wires or wrappings when closely attached to trees or boundary objects, artificial walls and pilings when located in penalty areas, unless otherwise denoted.

TEMPORARY IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS – Include greenside fans and tents. Model Local Rule F-23 is in effect. TIO relief may be taken on "either side". ***Note:*** CGA Championship Signage (including hole signposts, banners and tee signs) is considered Movable Obstructions. Any CGA sign that is not readily movable may be considered a TIO.

BALL DEFLECTED BY 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 round, the stroke does not count. The player must play a ball without penalty from where the previous stroke was. Model Local Rule E-11 is in effect.

WOOD CHIPS AND MULCH – Are loose impediments.

ANIMAL NEAR BALL – Model Local Rule E-13 is in effect.

PLAYER HAS NOT PLAYED FROM WRONG PLACE WHEN UNAWARE BALL MIGHT HAVE MOVED – Model Local Rule E-14 is in effect.

IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS & GROUND UNDER REPAIR CLOSE TO PUTTING GREEN (GENERAL AREA CUT TO FAIRWAY HEIGHT) – Relief from interference by an immovable obstruction may be taken under Rule 16.1. In addition, if the player's ball lies off the putting green and an immovable obstruction/ground under repair within two club-lengths of the putting green and within two club-lengths of the ball intervenes on the line of play, the player may take relief under Rule 16.1. This Local Rule only applies when both the ball and the obstruction are in part of the general area cut to fairway height or less. Model Local Rule F-5.2.

RELIEF FROM AERATION HOLES – If a player's ball lies in or touches an aeration hole: (a) Ball in General Area. The player may take relief under Rule 16.1b (drop ball). If the ball comes to rest in another aeration hole the player may take relief again under this Local Rule. (b) Ball on Putting Green. The player may take relief under Rule 16.1d (place ball). **But** interference does not exist if the aeration hole only interferes with the player's stance or, on the putting green, on the player's line of play. Model Local Rule E-4.

PACE OF PLAY – A group that is out of position (over the allotted time and course position with hole open) will be advised they are out of position, and the individuals may be timed by a Referee. Players timed exceeding **40** seconds to play their next shot will receive a bad time and be subject to penalty.

- One bad time: Verbal Warning
- A second bad time: One-stroke penalty
- A third bad time: General Penalty
- A fourth bad time: Disqualification

Bad times will carry over throughout the entire competition when more than one round. ***Note:*** A group that is out of position on the course at any time may be asked to close the gap regardless of pace of play guidelines. See CGA Pace of Play Policy for more information.

STOPPING AND RESUMING PLAY – Model Local Rule J-1 is in effect.

A suspension of play for a dangerous situation will be signaled by one prolonged note of a siren or horn. All players will be notified of suspension verbally and must stop play immediately. All other suspensions will be signaled by three consecutive notes of a siren or horn. In either case, resumption of play will be signaled by two short notes of a siren or horn (unless otherwise indicated). See Rule 5.7b. **Note:** 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 under CGA Code of Conduct.

ROUND – CGA Championship rounds are 18 holes, unless otherwise denoted prior to round. CGA Qualifying Rounds are 18 holes, consisting of two nine-hole rounds.

SCORECARD CERTIFICATION – A player's scorecard is deemed returned (no changes allowed to scorecard) 15 minutes after the score has been entered in the tournament scoring software by CGA staff. If a player returns a scorecard without the hole scores being certified either by the player, the marker or both, the player gets the general penalty (two penalty strokes). Model Local Rule L-1.

TIES & PLAYOFFS – A hole by hole playoff to determine the champion (or final qualifying spots as necessary) will begin at the first tee (unless indicated otherwise) when such a situation is determined. Players are responsible for making themselves available at the scoring area.

WHEN COMPETITION IS FINAL – The competition is final 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 final when the Committee has confirmed the result of the match.