

# LOCAL RULES AND TERMS OF THE COMPETITION FOR 2025 PENNSYLVANIA GOLF ASSOCIATION

*The Rules of Golf as approved by the United States Golf Association and R&A Limited govern play. These Local Rules and Terms of Competition are in effect at all PAGA championships and qualifying rounds. See applicable Championship or qualifying round Notice to Competitors/Players and Entry Application for modifications or additions to these Local Rules and Terms of Competition. Complete text of 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. For grass-covered trenching, see Temporary Lines and Cables.

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 that obstruction.

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

**RELIEF FROM SEAMS OF CUT TURF** - The Model Local Rule F-7 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.

**IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS** – Include plastic bumpers on roads and paths, and mats secured to the ground with spikes when the bumpers or mats cover cables.

## **IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS CLOSE TO PUTTING**

**GREENS:** Model Local Rule F-5.1 is in effect but applies only when both the ball and the obstruction are in part of the general area or cut to fairway height or less or on the putting green.

**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

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

**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 only with the players stance.

**TEMPORARY LINES AND CABLES** – Model Local Rule F-22 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.

**TEMPORARY IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS** - Model Local Rule F-23 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. F-23 is modified to provide additional relief options (Drop Zone and/or Either Side) under F-23 e(1) and e(2)

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

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

**PROHIBITING USE OF MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION** – Model Local Rule G-6 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect for the following events ONLY: Pennsylvania Amateur Championship, Pennsylvania Open Championship, PA Junior Boys Championship, PA Junior Girls Championship.

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

**PACE OF PLAY** – See separate memorandum to players for pace of play policy.

**STOPPING AND RESUMING PLAY** – Model Local Rule J-1 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. 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.

An immediate suspension will be signaled by one prolonged air horn note. All other types of suspension will be signaled by three consecutive airhorn notes, repeated. Resumption of play will be signaled by two short airhorn notes.

**PRACTICE** – Rule 5.2 covering practice in match play is modified in this way: A player must not practice on the competition course before or between rounds. 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 Rules, See Rule 5.2. Model Local Rule I-1.1 and Model Local Rule I-1.2.

**WHEN THE 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.

# 2025 PENNSYLVANIA GOLF ASSOCIATION TOURNAMENT POLICIES

## ADMINISTRATION FEE

A \$25 administration fee will be charged for withdrawal prior to the entry deadline.

## CANCELATIONS AND POSTPONEMENTS

Tournaments will not be canceled or postponed unless a course is deemed unplayable by the Member Club, a PAGA Official in Charge or an authorized official.

## CELLULAR PHONES

All players/caddies are advised that the use of cellular/smartphones for phone calls/emails/texts/messaging on the course is permitted as long as it is done so within the confines of Rule 4.3 and if the host facility allows those devices to be used. All players are expected to keep their phones in silent mode while on the course. If a player consistently disregards his or her fellow competitors or opponent to their detriment, the Committee will take appropriate disciplinary action. Such action may, for example, include prohibiting play for a limited time or in a certain number of competitions. In the case of serious breach misconduct, the Committee may disqualify a player under Rule 1.2. There could be a penalty for undue delay (Rule 5.6). Golf is considered a gentleman's game, and each player is expected to adhere to the highest standards of conduct on the course.

## DRESS CODE

Male Golfers - Required to observe good taste and to dress appropriately for the golf course. Items of clothing such as cargo pants and shorts (baggy clothing with large pockets in the knee area), blue jeans, short-shorts (bottom of shorts may be not higher than two inches from the top of the knee), tank tops, etc. are considered inappropriate. All headwear must be worn in the forward position. Anyone attired in such a manner, unless rectified, will not be allowed to participate in an Association event.

Female Golfers – Appropriate Attire: Bermuda shorts, skirts, Capri pants, slacks and skorts. Length of shorts, skirts and skorts may be no shorter than four inches above the knee. Sleeveless shirts must have a collar, or a collarless shirt must have sleeves. Inappropriate Attire: denim, tee shirts or tank tops, gym shorts, sweat pants, cargo shorts. All headwear must be worn in the forward position. Anyone attired in such a manner, unless rectified will not be allowed to participate in an Association event.

## ETIQUETTE

The Committee may take disciplinary action against player(s) who disregard etiquette to the detriment of other players. Such action may, for example, include prohibiting play for a certain number of competitions. This is considered to be justifiable in terms of protecting the interest of the majority of golfers who wish to play in accordance with the guidelines of the Rules of Golf.

In the case of a serious breach of Etiquette, the Committee may disqualify a player under Rule 1.2.

## FAILURE TO RETURN A SCORECARD

Any player who fails to return a scorecard to the scoring official or who withdraws during play without notifying an official and personally surrendering his or her scorecard to that official may be suspended from play in all PAGA tournaments for one year.

## NO SHOW

If unable to meet the assigned time, then the player must notify the Golf Office by phone at 610-472-0153. If withdrawal is on the day of the event, call or text Jason Barkley, PAGA Executive Director, at 610-721-6928, or contact via email at [jbarkley@pagolf.org](mailto:jbarkley@pagolf.org). Those players who fail to appear for their assigned time without notifying PAGA will be suspended from playing in all PAGA tournaments for one year.

**CHANGES TO SCORECARD**-A player may return to the scoring area and amend their scorecard within 15 minutes of when the scoring official confirms the scorecard in Golf Genius. If a player is in the scoring when the 15 minutes expires, the scorecard is considered returned when they exit the scoring area. The scoring official will refer to Golf Genius's Player Roster Log for the official timestamp of a scorecard confirmation during any round."

## SPECTATOR CARTS

In order to protect the players and the courses on which the Association hosts its events, the use of spectator golf carts in any event is prohibited.

## TEE TIMES

Assignment of starting times will be made according to preference. In the event this can't be equitably arranged, priority will be determined on a first-come, first-serve basis. In the event that the number of entries can't facilitate an afternoon wave of starting times, all players will receive a morning starting time.

## WEATHER

Unless otherwise noted, if a Championship course is declared unplayable and as a result it is not possible to complete play in the period in which the Championship is scheduled, the Championship shall not be extended beyond the last scheduled day and the winner shall be the individual(s) who returns the lowest score for the number of stipulated rounds completed. The Committee may institute a change in the cut format in order to complete the Championship. Qualifying may be subject to rescheduling.



# Pace of Play Policy

It is a condition of the competition that "the player shall play **without undue delay** and in accordance with any **Pace of Play (PoP) guidelines** that the Committee may establish" and with the prescribed penalties for slow play.

It is the player's responsibility to know their group's position relative to the published PoP and to ensure they play within the maximum scheduled limits. Failure to play within the PoP guidelines will result in a penalty unless the penalty is appealed and the Committee upholds the appeal. Appeals will only be considered if the player(s) have been: delayed by the Committee or; delayed by circumstances beyond control of the player or the group or; delayed because of another player in the group.

## Definition of "Out of Position"

The first group to start will be considered **Out of Position** if the group is behind the schedule prepared by the Committee. Any subsequent group is out of position when it:

- is taking more than the maximum scheduled time to play, and
- reaches a par-3 hole that is clear of all play and all players in the preceding group have played their strokes from the teeing ground of the next hole or
- reaches a par-4 or par-5 hole which is clear of all play or becomes clear of all play before all players in the group have played all of their strokes from the teeing ground.

**Warnings** - When practicable, the Committee will advise a group that it is Out of Position. The Committee will give a group advance notification that it is to be timed; however, an individual player may be timed without having first received a warning.

## Timing

When a group is Out of Position, each player must:

- play any stroke within 40 seconds after the timing of such stroke begins and
- play all of his strokes on a given hole in an aggregate time that does not exceed the average time per stroke (30 seconds) by more than 10 seconds.

## **Example:**

Average time per stroke: 30 seconds

<u>Score on hole</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Penalty</u>
3	90 seconds	101 seconds
4	120 seconds	131 seconds
5	150 seconds	161 second

**Note:** For these purposes, tap-in putts of less than two feet will not count as part of a player's score for the hole, but the player will be given an additional 10 seconds to complete the hole if that condition applies.

The timing of a player's stroke will begin when he/she has had reasonable opportunity to reach his ball, it is his turn to play and he/she can play without interference or distraction. On the putting green, timing will begin after a player has had a reasonable amount of time to mark, lift, clean and replace his/her ball, repair his/her ball mark and others on his line of putt and remove loose impediments on his/her line of putt. Time spent determining yardages as well as time spent looking at the line of putt will count as part of the time taken for the next stroke.

## Penalties

If a group is being timed, any player who takes more than 40 seconds to play a stroke or exceeds the average amount of time allotted for total strokes taken is subject to the following penalties:

### **Stroke Play:**

- One bad time exceeding the allotted time: **warning**
- Second bad time: **one stroke penalty**
- Third bad time: **additional two stroke penalty**
- Fourth bad time: **disqualification**

### **Match Play:**

- One bad time exceeding the allotted time: **warning**
- Second bad time: **loss of hole penalty**
- Third bad time: **disqualification**

If a group being timed regains its proper position, any previous bad timing will be carried over for the remainder of the round in the event that the group requires additional timing. Also, if a ruling or other uncontrollable delay causes a group to lose its position, the group is expected to regain its position within a reasonable time.