



LOCAL RULES AND TERMS OF THE COMPETITION FOR 2026 TMSGA COMPETITIONS

The Rules of Golf as approved by the United States Golf Association and the R&A govern play. These Local Rules and Terms of the Competition are in effect for all TMSGA events. Complete text of the Rules and Local Rules may be found in the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf, effective January 2023.

MAXIMUM SCORE: Under Rule 21.2, maximum score for all TMSGA events will be 10.

OUT OF BOUNDS: Defined by the line between the course-side points, at ground level, of white stakes and fence posts. Note: A ball, which 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.

Local Rule E-5 Alternative to Stroke and Distance for Lost Ball or Ball Out of Bounds: A player may use this additional relief option of dropping a ball in the relief area which is measured from where the player thinks the ball may have come to rest and to 2 club lengths into the fairway. The player may drop anywhere in this area for 2 strokes.

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 the out of bounds.

GROUND UNDER REPAIR: Defined by white lines. French drains are ground under repair. 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.

IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS – Include landscaped areas completely encircled by an obstruction, stone curbing and other constructions directly adjacent to path are part of the obstruction and where the outside edge (non-golf course side) of a road or path defines out of bounds, the road or path is an obstruction.

TEMPORARY IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS: (TIO) Local Rule F-23. If a player has physical or line of sight interference from a TIO, the player finds the nearest point of complete relief and drops from that reference point.

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.

RELIEF FROM SEAMS OF CUT TURF (SOD SEAMS): If a player's ball lies in or touches a seam of cut turf or a seam interferes with the player's area of intended swing:

Ball in General Area: The player may take relief under Rule 16.1b

Ball on Putting Green: The player may take relief under Rule 16.1d

But interference does not exist if the seam only interferes with the player's stance. All seams within the area of cut turf are treated as the same seam when taking relief. This means that if a player has interference from any seam after dropping the ball, the player must proceed as required under Rule 14.3c(2) even when the ball is still within one club-length of the reference point.

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.

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

CONFORMING GOLF BALLS AND CLUBS: Any club or ball used in making a stroke must be conforming under USGA Standards. If in doubt, more information can be found at USGA.org. Penalty for breach of this condition is disqualification.

BROKEN OR SIGNIFICANTLY DAMAGED CLUB – Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule G-9.

GREEN READING MATERIAL: Is prohibited.

PACE OF PLAY: Rule 5.6a and b address Unreasonable Delay and Prompt Pace of Play. See match guidelines for more information.

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 might 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 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.

PRACTICE BETWEEN HOLES: Between the play of two holes, a player must not make any practice strokes on or near the putting green of the hole just completed or test the surface of that putting green by rubbing the putting green or rolling a ball. Model Local Rule I-2

CELL PHONES: Talking or texting with a mobile telephone is strictly prohibited during play, except in emergency situations, using a DMD or otherwise authorized by the committee.. **PENALTY FOR BREACH OF THIS CONDITION:** First offense-warning, Second offense-disqualification.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES: The use of these are prohibited. This includes air buds, headphones, etc.

CODE OF CONDUCT: Rule 1.2 Standards of Player Conduct outlines expectations and penalties. The TMSGA website also covers specific player and coach expectations.

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.

SEE THE TMSGA MATCH GUIDELINES FOR MORE INFORMATION