



Local Rules and Terms of the Competition

FOR 2024 NCHSAA WOMEN'S REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Rules of Golf as approved by the United States Golf Association and R&A Rules Limited govern play. These Local Rules and Terms of the Competition are in effect at all USGA championships and qualifying rounds. See applicable championship or qualifying round notice to players and entry application 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.

Sportsmanship - Any competitor found to be guilty of poor sportsmanship, i.e., use of profanity, throwing of clubs in anger or general misbehavior as deemed by the Committee will be disqualified.

Maximum Score – Triple Bogey.

Supervision - All competitors must be supervised. A letter must be sent from the school Principal if anyone other than school personnel is supervising the competitor(s). Penalty is disqualification.

Coaching - Two designated school coaches may give advice, of a short and quick duration. Coaches may not provide continuous coaching while walking with a player. Once finished, coach must return immediately to the cart path. Coaches may not be on the tee box or enter onto the green(s) at any time.

Substitutes - Coaches may substitute for any/all team members up to start of a round. Individuals not part of a competing team cannot be substituted.

Caddie – Caddies are not allowed.

Advice - Advice cannot be given by anyone except the designated coaches.

Parent/Spectator Guidelines - All spectators will be restricted to cart paths (may leave the cart paths to assist in finding lost balls). Spectators may carry umbrellas, food, water, medicine, or a change of clothing for a competitor. Conversations must be limited to words of encouragement only.

Electronic Devices - Use of radios, walkie-talkies, cell phones and other electronic devices by players or coaches for communication is not allowed except for medical emergencies.

List Of Conforming Driver Heads – Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule G-1.

One Ball Rule & Grooves And Punch Mark Specifications – These Local Rules are **NOT** in effect.

List Of Conforming Golf Balls – Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule G-3.

Prohibiting Use Of Metal Spikes – Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule G-7. 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 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 (MLR 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.

Relief From Seams Of Cut Turf – 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 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 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, artificial walls and pilings when located in penalty areas and bunkers, unless otherwise denoted.

Temporary Immovable Obstructions – Include greenside fans and tents. Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule F-23.

Note: NCHSAA Championship Signage (including hole sign posts, banners and tee signs) is considered Movable Obstructions. Any NCHSAA 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 made (see Rule 14.6 for what to do when replaying shot). Model Local Rule E-11.

Wood Chips And Mulch – Are loose impediments.

Immovable Obstructions 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 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

A player’s time to play begins when the player has had sufficient time to reach their ball and when it is the player’s turn to play and can play without interference or distraction. Time taken to determine distance/club counts in timing. Penalties are applied individually, but more than one competitor in a group may be penalized. A group or match will be notified when they are being timed and when timing ceases. 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. Model Local Rule K-2.

Stopping And Resuming Play – Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule J-1.

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 may result in disqualification.

Round – NCHSAA Championship rounds are 18 holes, unless otherwise denoted prior to round.

Scorecard Certification – A player’s scorecard is deemed returned (no changes allowed to scorecard) once the score is returned to the scoring area. 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.

When Competition Is Final – The competition is final when the trophy has been presented to the winner.

DECIDING TIES AT THE REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Individuals – Ties for the last state qualifier only.

- a) If the course is available for a playoff:
 - I. Ties for the 17th individual only will be decided by a sudden-victory playoff. The Regional Director will select hole(s) for the playoff.
- b) If the course is not available for a playoff:
 - I. A scorecard comparison of the individuals tied for 17th place beginning with the #1 handicap hole.

Teams – Ties for the last state qualifying team only.

- a) If course is available for playoff:
 - I. Coach of each team tied for 3rd place would choose three (3) golfers for the playoff.
 - II. These three players would be ranked #1- #3 by the coach.
 - III. Coaches cannot change golfers after the any playoff hole.
 - IV. First playoff hole, golfers #1 & #1 from each team would tee off and complete the hole. Golfers #2 & #2 from each team would then tee off and complete the first playoff hole. Golfers #3 & #3 would then tee off and complete the first playoff hole. All three team scores would count to break the tie.
 - i. If more than two teams are in the playoff, pair golfers by rank, i.e., 3 #1 golfers in first pairing, 3 #2 golfers in next pairing, 3 #3 golfers in next pairing, and complete first playoff hole.
 1. If after first playoff hole 2 teams are still tied but one team has higher score, team with higher score is eliminated.
 - V. If the summary scores are equal after the first playoff hole, proceed to second playoff hole and use same playing procedure as previous hole.
 - VI. Continue until tie is broken and State Qualifier(s) are determined.
- b) If the course is not available:
 - I. If two or more teams are tied for 3rd place, go to the 4th golfer’s total, and compare. Lowest score advances.
 - i. See Note
 - II. If still tied, go to the 5th golfer’s total, and compare. Lowest score advances.
 - i. See Note

NOTE: If the 4th and/or 5th players’ scores cannot be compared because a team does not have that same number of players the #1 players’ total from each tied team will be compared, lowest score wins. If still tied, compare #2 players’ total, lowest score wins. If still tied, compare #3 players’ total, lowest score wins.