

# Local Rules and Terms of the Competition

## FOR 2023 TGA CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Rules of Golf as approved by the United States Golf Association and R&A Rules Limited govern play. The following Local Rules and Terms of the Competition are in effect at all TGA Championships and qualifying rounds. See applicable "Notice to Players" and Tournament Information for modifications or additions to these Local Rules and Terms of 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: Match Play – Loss of Hole; Stroke Play – Two Strokes**

**Out of Bounds** – Defined by the line between the course-side points, at ground level, of white stakes and fence posts. A ball that crosses any 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 only on 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.

**Abnormal Course Conditions (Including Immovable Obstructions)** – See Rule 16.1.

- a. Ground Under Repair:
  - i. Areas completely encircled with white lines.
  - ii. French drains.
  - iii. Exposed bunker liners. Interference does not exist if the liner interferes with only the player's stance.
  - iv. Seams of cut turf – Model Local Rule F-7 is in effect.
  - v. Damage made by animals (hog, skunk, and the like) – Model Local Rule F-10 is in effect.
- b. Immovable obstructions
  - i. White-lined areas tying into an obstruction are treated as part of the obstruction.
  - ii. When landscaped or garden areas (flower beds, shrubbery or the like) are completely encircled by an obstruction, the obstruction and the landscaped area are treated as one abnormal course condition.
  - iii. Stakes, ropes, wires, or other objects supporting trees or tree limbs, provided they are not closely attached. The tree or tree limb is not part of the obstruction.
  - iv. Where the outside edge (non-golf course side) of a road or path defines out of bounds, the road or path is an obstruction.

**Immovable Obstructions Close to Putting Greens** – Model Local Rule F-5 is in effect and is modified as follows: For a ball in the general area, relief is allowed only when both the ball and the immovable obstruction lie in an area cut to fairway height or less, the immovable obstruction may be on the putting green.

**Wood Chips and Mulch** – Are loose impediments.

**Integral Objects** – Include objects (cables, rods, wires, and wrappings) 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 player's stance.

**Permanent Elevated Power Lines** – If it is known or virtually certain that a player's ball hit a permanent elevated power line or cable 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 in accordance with Rule 14.6.

**Pace of Play** – Rule 5.6b (3). The Texas Golf Association Pace of Play Policy is in effect.

**Temporary Immovable Obstructions (TIOs)** – Tents, signage, electronic scoreboards, circulation fans and any other temporary structures installed specifically for this championship are deemed to be Temporary Immovable Obstructions. Model Local Rule F-23.

**Specifications of Clubs and the Ball.**

- a. List of Conforming Driver Heads – Model Local Rule G-1 is in effect.
- b. List of Conforming Golf Balls – Model Local Rule G-3 is in effect.

**Missing Player or Marker Certification** – Model Local Rule L-1 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.

**Methods for Stopping & Resuming Play** – Model Local Rule J-1 is in effect.

- a. An immediate suspension of play will be signaled by one prolonged airhorn note.
- b. All other types of suspension will be signaled by three consecutive airhorn notes.
- c. Resumption of play will be signaled by two short airhorn notes.

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.

**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 in 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.

**Scorecard Returned** – Scorecards must be attested and returned immediately after the completion of a round to the designated TGA scoring area. The player's score is considered final when the player has left the designated scoring area.

**When Competition is Final** – The competition is final when the trophy has been presented to the winner or, in 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 approved the result as posted on the public scoreboard or website.

### TGA Code of Conduct:

Players (and their caddies) are to observe proper golf etiquette at all times. Any abuse or disrespect of fellow competitors, officials, spectators, employees of the host facility, or other persons conducting or attending a TGA sponsored event can be grounds for disqualification from the event, and possible rejection of entry for future TGA events. Such abuse may be verbal or physical or threat thereof and includes but is not limited to: use of obscene language, physical damage to property or equipment including that of the TGA or the host facility, and being under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances during a round.