



## 2021 Local Rules &

### Conditions of Competition

The Rules of Golf approved by the United States Golf Association and R&A Rules Limited govern play, except as modified below by the Indiana Golf Association/ Indiana PGA Section. The following Local Rules and Terms of the Competition apply as referenced below and may be found in the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf, effective January 1, 2019. See the applicable competition's "Notice to Players" for additional definitions, Local Rules or amendments.

Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule is: Match Play – Loss of Hole; Stroke Play – Two Strokes.

1. **Out of Bounds** – Rule 18.2.  
Defined by inside edge of white stakes, white lines, and/or property fence posts or walls at ground level. When present white lines take precedence and the line itself is out of bounds. A ball that crosses a 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.
2. **Penalty Areas** – Rule 17.
  - a. Dropping Zones:  
If a ball is in or it is known or virtually certain that a ball that has not been found is in a penalty area and a drop zone is specified on the applicable "Notice to Players" for that penalty area, the player may as an additional option, drop a ball under penalty of one stroke, in the white lined area labeled "Drop Zone" located as indicated on the applicable "Notice to Players". The ball must be dropped in and come to rest within the drop zone. Model Local Rule E-1.1.
3. **Abnormal Course Conditions (including Immovable Obstructions)** – Rule 16.1.
  - a. Ground Under Repair:
    - i. Areas completely encircled with white lines.
    - ii. French drains (drainage ditch filled with stones).
    - iii. Seams of cut turf – Model Local Rule F-7 is in effect. Relief is for lie of ball or area of intended swing only.
    - iv. A hole made by a movable obstruction (stakes, sign, tripods, tables, chairs or the like) may be treated as ground under repair by the Committee. But interference does not exist if the hole only interferes with the player's stance.
  - b. Immovable Obstructions:
    - i. White lined areas tying into an obstruction are treated as a single abnormal course condition.
    - 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. Roads or paths surfaced with wood chips or mulch; the individual pieces of wood chips or mulch are loose impediments
    - iv. Where the outside edge of the (non-golf course side) of a road or path defines out of bounds, the road or path is an obstruction.
    - v. Staked Trees: If lie of ball, stance, or area of intended swing is interfered with by the stake attached to a tree, the stake and/ or rope/ wire is treated as an immovable obstruction. Relief without penalty from the tree itself is not permitted.
  - c. Removal of Temporary Water – Model Local Rule J-2 is in effect. If a ball lies on the putting green and there is interference by temporary water on the putting green, the Committee may:
    - i. Require the player to proceed under Rule 16.1.
    - ii. Squeegee the line of play.

4. **Exposed Tree Roots**- Model Local Rule F-9.1 is in effect  
If a player's ball is at rest in the general area cut to fairway height or less and the tree root interferes with the player's area of intended swing, the tree roots may be treated as ground under repair.
5. **Aerification Holes**- Model Local Rule E-4 is in effect  
If a player's ball lies in or touches an aeration hole in the general area, the player may take relief under Rule 16.1b. If the ball comes to rest in another aeration hole the player may take relief again under this Rule. But interference does not exist if the aeration hole only interferes with the player's stance.
6. **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 (including putting green). The immovable obstruction is on or within 2 club lengths of the putting green and within 2 club lengths of the ball. The ball must be lifted and dropped in the nearest relief area that 1) is not nearer the hole 2) avoids intervention and 3) is not in a penalty area or on a putting green.
7. **Integral Objects**.
  - a. Bunker Liners. The Committee may treat an exposed liner as ground under repair under Rule 16.1. But interference does not exist if the liner only interferes with the player's stance.
  - b. The portion of cables, wires or wrappings where closely attached to trees or objects defining out of bounds.
  - c. Artificial retaining walls and/or pilings when located within penalty areas.
8. **Permanent Elevated Power Lines or Cables** – Model Local Rule E-11 is in effect and is modified as follows: If it is known or virtually certain that a player's ball hit a power line in bounds, 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.
9. **Temporary Immovable Obstructions (TIO's)** – Model Local Rule F-23. Includes tents, signs, and other temporary immovable obstructions installed for the competition.
10. **Specifications of Clubs and the Ball**
  - a. List of Conforming Driver Heads – Model Local Rule G-1 is in effect. Penalty for making a stroke with club in breach of this Local Rule – Disqualification.
  - b. List of Conforming Golf Balls – Model Local Rule G-3 is in effect. Penalty for making a stroke with a ball in breach of this Local Rule – Disqualification.
  - c. The "One Ball Rule" is not in effect.
11. **Model Local Rule G-9** – Modifies Rule 4.1b(3). Damage to clubs.
12. **Pace of Play** – Rule 5.6  
Unless modified, groups should play at a pace of no more than 15 minutes/hole or maintain a position within 1 hole of the group ahead of them. Groups may or may not be warned depending on the circumstances. Players who fall outside "expected pace" will be timed and any player who exceeds 40 seconds on any shot will be warned. The Committee may penalize the entire group or any individual within the group. **PENALTY FOR BREACH OF CONDITION:** 1<sup>st</sup> offense- 1 stroke penalty 2<sup>nd</sup> offense- General Penalty in addition to 1 stroke penalty 3<sup>rd</sup> offense- Disqualification. Penalty strokes may be revoked if the player/group gets back in to position in a prompt manner.
13. **Stopping Play; Resuming Play** – Rule 5.7. Model Local Rule J-1 is in effect as follows:
  - a. Immediate Suspension (Dangerous Situation): One prolonged note of the air horn.
  - b. Normal Suspension (Non-Dangerous situation): Three short notes of the air horn. Players may finish the hole they are on or discontinue play. However, they may not start a hole if between holes and no players have started the next hole.
  - c. Resume Play: Two short notes of the air horn.

Note: During an immediate suspension for a dangerous situation, all practice areas are closed until the Committee has declared them open. Players who disregard such closing are subject to possible penalty or disqualification.

14. **Model Local Rule E-12**- is in effect in relation to the Back-On-The-Line relief procedure only.
15. **Practice** – Rule 5.
  - a. Before or between rounds in stroke play – Model Local Rule I-1. 1 is in effect and Rule 5.2b is modified as follows: A player must not practice on the competition course but may practice on the designated practice areas. Penalty for breach of Local Rule, see Rule 5.2.
  - b. Between holes in stroke play – Model Local Rule I-2 is in effect and between the play of two holes, a player must not:
    - i. Make any practice stroke on or near the putting green of the hole just completed, or
    - ii. Test the surface of that putting green by rubbing the putting green or rolling a ball.
16. **Distance Measuring Devices** – Rule 4.3.  
Both Distance Measuring Devices & Phone applications are permitted provided they meet Rule 4.3 requirements.
17. **Transportation** – Either the player or the player's caddie can ride in or move a golf cart, but not at the same time. The player and the player's caddie are not allowed to ride in the same or separate carts at the same time. Penalty – General Penalty or Disqualification with repeat infractions.  
**Spectators** are NOT allowed to ride on a cart during the round. The player of the spectator and the player who allows the spectator to ride may be penalized. Stroke play- 2 shot penalty, max. of 4 Match Play- Loss of hole Max. of 2
18. **Audio and Video** – Rule 4.3.  
Model Local Rule G-8 is in effect. During a round a player must not listen to or watch content of any nature on a personal audio or video device.
19. **Model Local Rule D-7**- Exception 2 to Rule 11.1b applies, except that when a ball played from the putting green accidentally hits the player, the club used to make stroke, an animal defined as a loose impediment (worm, insects, etc that can be removed easily). The stroke counts and the ball must be played as it lies. Breach of Local Rule: General Penalty
20. **Cell Phone Policy** – The use of a cell phone during a round may be used for non-verbal texting, emailing, checking inclement weather or leaderboards. Such use may not otherwise violate the Rules of Golf including giving or receiving advice or sharing of information. The phone must be kept in silent mode. While using the device, the player cannot distract fellow competitors or disrupt pace of play. Phone calls are only permitted to obtain information regarding a ruling or to request a rules official. **PENALTY FOR BREACH OF CONDITION:** 1<sup>st</sup> offense- warning 2<sup>nd</sup> offense- General Penalty 3<sup>rd</sup> offense- Disqualification.
21. **Scorecard Returned** – A player's scorecard has been returned to the Committee when the player has exited the defined scoring area.
22. **When Result of Competition is Final** – The competition is final when all scores have been validated in the scoring system and approved by the Committee.
23. **Code of Conduct** – Rule 1.2b  
The respective board (IGA/PGA) has the right to revoke a player's Privileges to compete in future tournaments for acting contrary to the spirit of the game and committing serious misconduct.