



**Southern California PGA
Local Rules and Terms of Competition
2023 Edition**

The Rules of Golf as approved by the United States Golf Association and The R&A govern play, except as modified below by the Southern California PGA. 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 the general penalty.

1. Out of Bounds - Rule 18.2.

Defined by the line between the course-side points, at ground level, of white stakes and fence posts. 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.

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.

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 Ground Conditions (including Immovable Obstructions) - Rule 16.1.

a. Ground Under Repair:

- i.** Areas completely encircled with white lines.
- ii.** French drains (trenches filled with rocks or stones).
- iii.** Seams of cut turf – Model Local Rule F-7 is in effect. If a player's ball is in the general area and the ball lies in or touches a seam of cut turf or a seam interferes with the player's area of intended swing, the player may take relief under Rule 16.1b. But interference does not exist if the seam only interferes with the player's stance.
- iv.** A hole made by a movable obstruction (stakes, signs, tables, chairs or the like) may be treated as ground under repair by the Committee. But inference 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 when taking relief under Rule 16.1.
- ii.** Mats fastened in position and bumpers covering cables.
- iii.** 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.

iv. Roads or paths surfaced with wood chips or mulch; the individual pieces of wood chips or mulch are loose impediments.

v. Where the outside edge (non-golf course side) of a road or path defines out of bounds, the road or path is an obstruction.

vi. When railroad ties, curbing or the like adjoin roads and paths, they are deemed to be part of the same abnormal course condition.

4. Immovable Obstructions Close to Putting Green

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.

5. Integral Objects

- a. Bunker Liners.** An exposed liner may be treated as ground under repair by the Committee under Rule 16.1. But interference does not exist if the bunker liner only interferes with the player's stance.
- b.** The portion of cables, rods, 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 and bunkers.
- d.** Gates attached to boundary objects.

6. 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 to Rule 14.6.

7. Pace of Play – Rule 5.6b (3).

It is the responsibility of all players to play without undue delay. Rules officials will assist, monitor, and time groups that are out of position, and when necessary issue warnings or penalties. If a player finishes their round in more than 15 minutes than the group in front of them and are also behind their time-par, the group will be issued a 2-stroke penalty on their final hole. **See “Pace of Play Policy” in the SCPGA Junior Tour Handbook for more information.**

8. Time of Starting – Rule 5.3a

All players in a group must be present at the proper tee ready to play at their scheduled time or, when starting times fall behind, when the Starter calls the first player in the group to play. A player is late when they are not present, ready to play, when the first player is called to play away. If the player arrives at their starting point, ready to play, within five minutes after their starting time, the penalty for failure to start on time is loss of the first hole in match play or two strokes at the first hole in stroke play. Otherwise, the penalty for breach of this Rule is disqualification. The official time is with the starter. Clocks located on golf course property are unofficial.

9. Doubt as to Procedure; Second Ball. - Rule 20.1c(3)

When a player is in doubt as to their rights or procedure and no Rules Official is nearby, they may play a second ball. Regardless of the player scoring the same with both balls, they must report the facts to the Committee before signing and returning their scorecard.

Penalty for failure to report when required:
Disqualification.

10. Spectator Policy

A Competitor may be subject to penalty for interaction with spectators. **See "Spectator Policy" in the SCPGA Junior Tour Handbook.**

11. Distance Measuring Devices – Rule 4.3.

See "Use of Distance Measuring Devices" in the SCPGA Junior Tour Handbook.

12. 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.
- 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 disciplinary action.

13. Practice – Rule 5

a. Before or between rounds in stroke play – Model Local Rule I-1.2 is in effect and Rule 5.2b is modified as follows: A player must not practice on the competition course both before and between rounds, but may practice on the designated practice areas. Penalty for breach of Local Rule, see Rule 5.2.

b. Between hole in stroke play – Model Local Rule I-2 is in effect and Rule 5.5b is modified as follows:

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.**

TERMS OF THE COMPETITION

14. Deciding Ties

In the event of a tie, the USGA scorecard method of back 9 score (holes 10-18) will be used, unless otherwise noted. If scores are still tied with the last 9-holes, the final 6 will be used, then final 3, then the last hole

15. Scorecard Returned

A player's scorecard has been returned to the Committee when the player has exited the defined scoring area with both feet. Prior to returning the scorecard, a player that needs to leave the scoring area must inform the Committee of his intention to leave and immediately return.

16. When Result of Competition is Final

A SCPGA Junior Tour competition is deemed to be closed when a SCPGA staff has posted all scores on the Official Scoreboard and approved by the Committee

17. Conduct

Objectionable conduct:

- Use of alcohol, tobacco products, or drugs, club throwing, obscene or vulgar language/motions, littering, defacing or destroying host club or fellow competitor property, abuse of SCPGA staff, volunteers host club staff, or PGA Members, or other actions deemed inappropriate by the Committee.

Penalty for objectionable conduct:
Disqualification (Rule 1.2) and possible loss of playing privileges on the SCPGA Junior Tour



SCPGA Junior Tour Rules Committee
SCPGA Junior Tour Staff and The SCPGA Rules Committee
<http://scpgajrtour.com>