

## LOCAL RULES AND TERMS OF COMPETITION FOR 2025 OGA AND OGA JUNIOR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS AND EVENTS

The *Rules of Golf* as approved by the USGA and The R&A Rules Limited govern play. These Local Rules and Terms of the Competition are in effect at all OGA and OGA Junior Golf competitions, along with additional Local Rules or Terms as provided on the applicable Notice to Players, Entry Application and OGA Junior Golf Code of Conduct. Complete text of Rules and Model Local Rules may be found in the *Official Guide to the Rules of Golf*, effective March 2024.

**UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, THE PENALTY FOR BREACH OF A LOCAL RULE IS THE GENERAL PENALTY**

### LOCAL RULES

#### 1. USE OF SPECIFIC EQUIPMENT:

- a. **LIST OF CONFORMING DRIVER HEADS** – Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule G-1.
- b. **LIST OF CONFORMING GOLF BALLS** – Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule G-3. Exception - in OGA Junior Golf events, 8-11 and Intermediate divisions are not required to play a ball on the conforming list.
- c. **PROHIBITED USE OF AUDIO AND VIDEO EQUIPMENT** – Rule 4.3 is modified in this way: During a round, a player is not allowed to use an electronic device to listen or watch music or other video and audio (such as podcasts, watching sporting events or the like), including by using headphones or earbuds. Penalty for breach of Local Rule - see Rule 4.3.
- d. **MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION** – Unless prohibited on the entry application, players are permitted to use motorized transportation for all adult championships and OGA Tour events. During all OGA Junior Golf tournaments, motorized transportation is prohibited. In cases where motorized transportation is prohibited, Model Local Rule G-6 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. In all events, Spectator Carts are prohibited except for individuals with a permanent or temporary *DMV disabled person placard*, or if approved by the OGA or OGA Junior Golf Tournament Director.
- e. **PROHIBITING USE OF CERTAIN TYPES OF SHOES** – Shoes with traditionally-designed spikes or where metal may come in contact with the course are prohibited during a round. Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule G-7.

2. **OUT OF BOUNDS** – Defined by the line between the course-side points, at ground level, of white stakes and fence posts. Additionally, 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 that is in bounds for other holes. Model Local Rule A-3.

3. **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.

4. **GROUND UNDER REPAIR** – Defined by white lines. French drains are ground under repair.

5. **SEAMS OF CUT TURF** - Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of The Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule F-7.

6. **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.

7. **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, and bunker liners unless otherwise provided for in the Notice to Players. An exposed bunker liner may be treated as ground under repair, but interference does not exist if the liner interferes with only the player's stance.

8. **WOOD CHIPS AND MULCH** – are loose impediments.

9. **AERATION HOLES** – Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of The Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule E-4.

10. **TEMPORARY IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS** – Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule F-23.

11. **IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS CLOSE TO PUTTING GREENS** – Relief may be taken under Rule 16.1b for a ball in the general area if an immovable obstruction (sprinkler head) is on the line of play and within two club lengths; and the immovable obstruction is on or within two club lengths of the putting green. This only applies when both the ball and the immovable obstruction are in a closely mown area (fairway height or less). Model Local Rule F-5.2.

12. **STOPPING AND RESUMING PLAY** – Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Rule J-1. An immediate suspension of play for a dangerous situation will be signaled by one prolonged airhorn note. All other types of suspension will be signaled by three short consecutive airhorn notes. Resumption of play will be signaled by two short airhorn notes. All practice areas are closed during 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.

13. **PRACTICE** – 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.

14. **PACE OF PLAY** – See OGA Pace of Play Policy which is in effect for all adult championships and OGA Junior Golf Tournaments. For OGA Tour events, all scorecards must be returned within 5 hours – if a player returns a score card after 5 hours, he/she may forfeit his/her right to both prizes and points earned in the event.

15. **MODIFICATION OF PENALTY UNDER RULE 3.3B(2) FOR MISSING PLAYER OR MARKER CERTIFICATION** – The Model Local Rule L-1 is in effect.

16. **USE OF CADDIE PROHIBITED** – *For OGA Junior Golf competitions only*, Rule 10.3 is modified in this way: A player must not have a caddie during the round.

17. **SCORECARD** – Any Local Rules listed on the club scorecard or posted at the host club are unofficial and have no status in OGA, OGA Junior Golf, or OGA Tour competitions.

### TERMS OF THE COMPETITION

18. **TIME OF STARTING / OFFICIAL TIME** – A player is at his/her starting area when he/she is within the roped area of the starting tee, including the starter's tent. If a roped area is not present, the starting area will be defined in the Notice to Players. If a player has previously checked in with the starter, he/she is still required to be at the starting area at his/her designated starting time scheduled by the Committee, or adjusted time. The Official Time is defined by the clock located at the tee where a player is scheduled to begin the round. Exception: For OGA Tour events, see the Notice to Players.

19. **SCORING AREA** – A player has officially returned his/her scorecard when he/she leaves the scoring area. At OGA Adult Championships and OGA Junior Golf Tournaments the scoring area is defined by ropes, stanchions, or in their absence, the outside edge of the scoring tent. At OGA Tour events, no official scoring area exists, and the scorecard has been officially returned when it has been dropped in the "scoring box" by the player even if he has not left the immediate area. In all events, if a site requires different conditions, the scoring area will be defined in the Notice to Players.

20. **CODE OF CONDUCT** – See separate Code of Conduct policies for OGA and OGA Junior Golf which specify standards of conduct and resulting penalties, including disqualification for serious misconduct violations.

21. **GENDER POLICY** – The OGA will adhere to the USGA's Competitive Fairness Gender Policy which can be found <https://champ-admin.usga.org/player/articles/usga-competitive-fairness-gender-policy>.

22. **DRESS CODE** – All players and caddies must adhere to the OGA or OGA Junior Golf and Host Club Dress Code through the Close of Competition. Any player or their caddie in violation of this Dress Code will not be permitted to start the competition. Player violation of the Dress Code during the competition may result in revoking of the player's entry if the violation is not corrected.

23. **NO SHOW/WITHDRAW** – A player failing to appear without prior notification to tournament officials is subject to a one (1) year suspension from the date of the infraction. A player who starts and withdraws prior to the close of the competition and has not turned in his scorecard personally to a tournament official is subject to the same one-year suspension as a no show.

24. **TIES** – See Notice to the Players or Player Information of the specified event to see how tiebreakers will be determined.

25. **WHEN COMPETITION IS FINAL** – The competition is final when the trophy or, in absence of a trophy, when the prize has been presented to the winner at the awards ceremony. In the absence of an awards ceremony, the competition is final when all scores have been approved by the Committee. In stroke play qualifying followed by match play, the competition is final when the player has teed off to start his/her first match (Rule 20.2e (2)). The result of a match is final when the Committee has approved the result and has been published.