

# LOCAL RULES AND TERMS OF THE COMPETITION FOR 2026 GOLF ASSOCIATION OF PHILADELPHIA TOURNAMENTS

*The Rules of Golf as approved by the United States Golf Association and R&A Limited govern play. These Local Rules and Terms of Competition are in effect at all GAP championships and qualifying rounds. See applicable Championship or qualifying round Notice to Competitors/Players and Entry Application for modifications or additions to these Local Rules and Terms of Competition. Complete text of 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.**

**OUT OF BOUNDS** - Defined by the line between the course-side points of white stakes and fence posts at ground level.

**ALTERNATIVE TO STROKE AND DISTANCE FOR LOST BALL OR BALL OUT OF BOUNDS:** The Model Local Rule E-5 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect for the following events ONLY: Net Championship, Volunteers Day and all Member Play Days. All other events will NOT use this Local Rule.

**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.

**GROUND UNDER REPAIR** - Defined by white lines. French drains are ground under repair. For grass-covered trenching, see Temporary Lines and Cables.

Ground under repair may include areas of unusual damage, including areas where spectators or other traffic has combined with wet conditions to affect materially the ground surface, but only when so declared by an authorized member of the Committee. When immediately adjacent to an immovable obstruction, such an area is part of that obstruction.

**ANIMAL NEAR BALL** – Model Local Rule E-13 is in effect.

**RELIEF FROM SEAMS OF CUT TURF** - The Model Local Rule F-7 is in effect.

**IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS** – Include plastic bumpers on roads and paths, and mats secured to the ground with spikes when the bumpers or mats cover cables.

## **IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS CLOSE TO PUTTING**

**GREENS:** Model Local Rule F-5.2 is in effect but applies only when both the ball and the obstruction are in part of the general area cut to fairway height or less.

**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

**WOOD CHIPS AND MULCH** - Are loose impediments.

**INTEGRAL OBJECTS** – Include objects 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 players stance.

**TEMPORARY LINES AND CABLES** – Model Local Rule F-22 is in effect.

**TEMPORARY IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS** - Model Local Rule F-23 is in effect.

**LIST OF CONFORMING DRIVER HEADS** – Model Local Rule G-1 is in effect.

**LIST OF CONFORMING GOLF BALLS** – Model Local Rule G-3 is in effect.

**PROHIBITING USE OF MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION** – Model Local Rule G-6 is in effect for the following events ONLY: BMW Phila. Amateur Championship, Open Championship, Patterson Cup, Junior Boys Championship, Junior-Junior Boys Championship, Christman Cup, Jock MacKenzie Memorial and Francis X. Hussey Memorial.

**MISSING PLAYER OR MARKER CERTIFICATION** - Model Local Rule L-1 is in effect.

**PACE OF PLAY** – See separate memorandum to players for pace of play policy.

**STOPPING AND RESUMING PLAY** – Model Local Rule J-1 is in effect.

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.

An immediate suspension will be signaled by one prolonged air horn note. All other types of suspension will be signaled by three consecutive airhorn notes, repeated. Resumption of play will be signaled by two short airhorn notes.

**PRACTICE** – In only the BMW Amateur, Mid-Amateur, Patterson Cup, Open Championship and Junior Boys Championship. Prior to and after a round in stroke play, a player may practice on any designated practice areas that are part of the course. Rule 5.2 a covering practice in match play is modified in this way: A player must not practice on the competition course before or between rounds. 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 Rules, See Rule 5.2. Model Local Rule I-1.1 and Model Local Rule I-1.2.

**WHEN THE COMPETITION IS FINAL** - The Competition is final when the trophy has been presented to the winner or, in the absence of a prize ceremony, when all scores have been approved by the Committee.