

Code of Conduct Policy/Local Rule

Rule 1.2 states, in part, “All players are expected to play in the spirit of the game by: 1. Acting with integrity – for example, by following the Rules, applying all penalties, and being honest in all aspects of play, 2. Showing consideration to others – for example, by playing at a prompt pace, looking out for the safety of others, and not distracting the play of another player, and 3. Taking good care of the course – for example, by replacing divots, smoothing bunkers, repairing ball-marks, and not causing unnecessary damage to the course.” Per the *Interpretations* to Rule 1.2a found in the *Official Guide to the Rules of Golf*, the phrase “serious misconduct” is intended to cover player misconduct that is so far removed from the expected norm in golf that the most severe sanction of removing a player from the competition is justified. This includes dishonesty, deliberately interfering with another player’s rights, or endangering the safety of others. The LGA Rules Committee has put into place this code of conduct policy to address all levels of misconduct, including those where a player’s level of misconduct, in the Committee’s determination, would more effectively be dealt with by the following penalty structure: First breach of the Code of Conduct – Warning Second breach – one-stroke penalty Third breach – general penalty Fourth breach or any serious misconduct – disqualification* *Note that this penalty structure does not preclude the Committee from disqualifying a player if, in their sole determination, a player commits a first breach of the code of conduct policy that is worthy of disqualification. When deciding whether a player is guilty of serious misconduct, the Committee will consider whether the player’s action was intentional and whether the act was significant enough to warrant disqualification without first giving a warning and/or applying other penalties from the Code of Conduct penalty structure. Some examples of misconduct that most likely will not be considered “serious misconduct” include the following: 1. Players entering no play zones, 2. Failure to care for the course, for example not raking bunkers, not replacing, or filling divots or not repairing ball-marks, 3. Unacceptable language, 4. Abuse of clubs or the course, 5. Being disrespectful of other players, referees, or spectators. The LGA Code of Conduct also applies to a player’s caddie, i.e., the player can be penalized for the actions of his or her caddie during the round. Some examples of misconduct that are likely to be considered “serious misconduct” include: 1. Deliberately causing serious damage to a putting green, 2. Disagreeing with the course set-up and taking it upon himself or herself to move tee-markers or boundary stakes, 3. Throwing a club towards another player or spectator, 4. Deliberately distracting other players while they are making strokes, 5. Removing loose impediments or movable obstructions to disadvantage another player after that person has asked him or her to leave them in place, 6. Repeatedly refusing to lift a ball at rest when it interferes with another player in stroke play, 7. Deliberately playing away from the hole and then towards the hole to assist the player’s partner (such as helping the player’s partner learn the break on the putting green), 8. Deliberately not playing in accordance with the Rules and potentially gaining a significant advantage by doing so, despite incurring a penalty for a breach of the relevant rule, 9. Repeatedly using vulgar or offensive language, 10. Using a handicap that has been established for the purpose of providing an unfair advantage or using the round being played to establish such a handicap. Individual members of the Committee will not be given authority to penalize players for a breach of the LGA Code of Conduct Policy. Any penalties will be a result of the entire Committee’s decision and will not be meted out unless the Committee is convinced the penalty is justified. The Committee’s decision is final.

TO PLAYERS IN LJGT EVENTS

Pace of Play

Rule 5.6 states, in part: “The player must not unreasonably delay play.” You must play without undue delay and in accordance with the pace of play guidelines that the Committee may establish. The penalty for breach of this Rule is one stroke for first offense and two strokes for second offense in. For subsequent offense, the penalty is disqualification.

We do not wish to apply penalties for undue delay. However, we insist that in the interest of all, the pace of play be reasonable. We believe that it would be unreasonable for a group of four players to take more than 15 minutes per hole (4 hours and 30 minutes for the round) to play.

The first group to start will be considered out of position if, at any point in the round, the group is taking more than 15 minutes per hole to play. Any subsequent group will be considered out of position if it (a) is taking more than 15 minutes per hole to play and (b) reaches the tee of a par-3 hole and the preceding group has cleared the next tee; reaches the tee of a par-4 hole and the putting green is clear; or reaches the teeing ground of a par-5 hole when the preceding group is on the putting green. Both (a) and (b) must apply for a group to be out of position.

Any group not in position will be alerted of the fact and requested to play at a faster pace. Any such group will be monitored, i.e., the time that each player takes to play each stroke will be recorded. Any player in a group out of position who takes more than 40 seconds (50 seconds in the case of a player who is first to play (1) an approach shot, (2) on or near the putting green, or (3) from the teeing ground on a par-3 hole) to play a stroke on two different occasions will be advised of the fact and told that, if the player exceeds the time limit on two more shots, the player will automatically incur the applicable penalty (see above) under Rule 5.6.

Other than on the putting green, the timing of a player’s stroke will begin when it is his turn to play and he can play without interference or distraction. Time spent determining yardage will count as time taken for the next stroke.

On the putting green, the timing will begin after a player has been allowed a reasonable amount of time to mark, lift, clean and replace his ball; repair ball marks and remove loose impediments on his line of putt. Time spent looking at the line from beyond the hole and/or behind the ball will count as part of the time taken for the next stroke.

Undue delay may occur between strokes. Accordingly, a player may be subject to penalty under Rule 5.6, even if he plays each of his strokes in less than the time allowed. **If a ruling or some other legitimate delay occurs which causes the group in question to lose its position, that group is expected to regain its position within a reasonable time.**

If a group being timed regains its proper position, any previous “bad times” will be carried over for the remainder of the round in the event that group requires additional monitoring. The Committee reserves the right, at any time, to time a group when deemed necessary.

We sincerely request your cooperation.

Please note the specific pace of play timing intervals for your group on your scorecard



Local Rules and Terms of the Competition for LGA Championships

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

LOCAL RULES

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

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. 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.

RELIEF FROM SEAMS OF CUT TURF – Model Local Rule F-7 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.

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 when both the ball and obstruction lie in an area cut to fairway height or less. The obstruction must be, i) within two club-lengths of the putting green, ii) on the player's line of play, and iii) the ball must be within two club-lengths of the obstruction.

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 cables, rods, wires, and wrappings when closely attached to trees, 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.

BALL DEFLECTED BY POWER LINES – Model Local Rule E-11 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.

LIST OF CONFORMING DRIVER HEADS – Model Local Rule G-1 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.

LIST OF CONFORMING GOLF BALLS – Model Local Rule G-3 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.

BROKEN OR SIGNIFICANTLY DAMAGED CLUB – Model Local Rule G-9 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures 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.

PACE OF PLAY – See separate memorandum to players for pace of play policy, when applicable. Players are encouraged to play “ready golf” in a responsible manner as prescribed in Rules 5.6b, the exception to 6.4a, and 6.4b.

STOPPING AND RESUMING PLAY – Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule J-1. 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 airhorn note. All other types of suspension will be signaled by three consecutive airhorn notes. Resumption of play will be signaled by two short airhorn notes.

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 must not practice on the competition course before or between rounds. Penalty for breach of Local Rule, see Rule 5.2.

PRACTICE ON OR NEAR PUTTING GREEN OF HOLE LAST PLAYED (PROHIBITED) – Rule 5.5b is modified in this way: Between the play of two holes, a player must not make any practice stroke on or near the putting green of the hole just completed or test the surface of that putting green by rubbing the putting green or rolling a ball.

WHEN 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.