



WEST VIRGINIA GOLF ASSOCIATION

Local Rules and Terms of the Competition

2026



The Rules of Golf as approved by the United States Golf Association and the R&A govern play. These Local Rules and Terms of the Competition are in effect for all WVGA Championships, qualifying rounds and one day events. See applicable Notice to Players for modifications or additions to these Local Rules and Terms of Competition.

Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a local rule is the general penalty.

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 or railroad track defined as out of bounds and comes to rest beyond that road or railroad track is out of bounds, even though it may lie on another part of the course.

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.

Abnormal Course Conditions – White lined areas tying into an obstruction are treated as part of the same obstruction. - Rules 16.1 (**Ground Under Repair**) – Areas completely encircled with white lines. French drains are ground under repair. 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. (**Relief from Seams of Cut Turf**) – Model Local Rule F-7 is in effect. (**Immovable Obstruction**) – All parts of any Slot Rail Fencing are determined to be an Immovable Obstruction, even if the railings are easily movable. When landscaped areas are completely encircled by an obstruction, the obstruction and landscaped area are treated as one abnormal course condition. Roads or paths surfaced with wood chips or mulch; the individual pieces of wood chips or mulch are loose impediments. (**Removal of Temporary Water**) – Model Local Rule J-2 is in effect. If a player's ball lies on the putting green and there is interference by temporary water on the putting green, the player may take free relief under Rules 16.1, or have his or her line of play squeegeed by a member of the Rules Committee. (**Aeration Holes**)- Model Local Rule E-4 is in effect. For a ball in the General area the player may drop the ball, if it lands in or touches another aeration hole the play may drop again. For a ball on the putting green the player may place their ball as near as possible no closer to the hole. Only applies to the lie of ball in both situations.

Protection of Young Trees – Model Local Rule E-10.1 is in effect.

Immovable Obstructions Close to Putting Greens – Model Local Rules F-5,2 is in effect. For a ball in general area: if an immovable obstruction is on the line of play and is 1) On or within two club-lengths of the putting green, and 2) Within two club-lengths of the ball, the player may take relief under 16.1b. The obstruction and the golf ball must BOTH be in closely mown areas for relief to be granted.

Gates in Boundary Fences and Walls – MLR F-26 is in effect and reads: "All closed gates that are attached to boundary walls and fences are part of the boundary object. Relief is not allowed from such a gate under Rule 15.2 or 16.1. But an open gate is not treated as part of the boundary object and may be closed or moved to a different position."

Temporary Immovable Obstructions – Model Local Rule F-23 is in effect.

List of Conforming Golf Balls – Model Local Rule G-3 is in effect.

Stopping Play; Resuming Play – Rule 5.7, Model Local Rules J-1. Immediate Suspension: One prolonged note of the air horn. Normal Suspension: Three short notes of the air horn. 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.

Practice – Prior to and after a round in stroke play, a player may practice on the designated practice areas. Model Local Rule I-1.1 is in effect and Rule 5.2a is modified in this way: A player must not practice on the competition course before or between rounds. Exceptions: There are some events players may play on the competition course(s) if they choose. (Scrambles, Four-Ball and Four-Ball Match Play)

Prohibiting Use of Audio and Video Devices: Model Local Rule G-8 is in effect and is modified as follows: During a round, a player must not listen to music on a personal audio or video device during any championship, one day event or qualifier.

Deciding Ties – In the event of a tie, unless otherwise specified, a hole-by-hole stroke-play play-off will determine the winner immediately following the last round.

Scorecards – A player's scorecard has been returned to the Committee when the player has exited the defined scoring area with both feet. Model Local Rule L-1 is in effect and Rule 3.3b(2) is modified in this way: If a player returns a scorecard without the hole scores being certified either by the player, the marker or both, the player gets the general penalty (two penalty strokes).

When Competition is Final – The competition is final when all scores have been validated in the scoring system and approved by the Committee. In the event of a play-off, the competition is final when the play-off scores have been approved by the Committee.