

Tour Rules of Play 1/2020

To promote convergence and consistency with the current USGA Rules of Golf, these Tour Rules of Play shall serve to guide this Committee's governance of play.

- 1. SCORECARD PRINTED RULES** Any local rules printed on the official scorecard shall be in effect. Local rule signs and Drop Areas on the course SHALL NOT be in effect unless specified by the Committee.
- 2. ONE BALL RULE** requires each player to play throughout his or her round only the same make and model ball with which his or her play was begun. The player incurs the General Penalty for each hole during which he or she is in breach of this rule.
- 3. TEEING GROUND** on each hole shall be defined by the back most tee marker(s), the hole's tee set furthest from the hole, unless otherwise specified by the Committee.
- 4. PUTTING GREEN LIBERTIES** Players in accordance with the rules and without unduly delaying play may on the putting green, repair: ball marks, shoe damage, scrapes, indentations, old hole plugs, turf plugs, seams of cut turf, animal tracks, and embedded objects, but **NOT** surface imperfections such as; weeds, bare or diseased spots and uneven growth. Player's touching their intended line except through justified repair shall incur the General Penalty for breach of USGA Rule 8.1. This Committee shall interpret the related rules to mean that a player may not intentionally touch his or her line unless repairing damage. Also, players should obtain agreement with their marker or another player as to whether an imperfection on the green is damage reparable under the rules. Players should adhere to the proper procedures with regard to Rule 8.1
- 5. OUT OF BOUNDS** White stakes, and connecting white lines, outer fences/walls and automobile roadways/parking lots shall define Out Of Bounds. [Balls coming to rest on the golf course beyond the defined OB are also Out Of Bounds.]
- 6. PENALTY AREAS** often indicated by yellow or red stake(s) shall be defined by like colored painted lines. In the absence of painted lines, all areas on each hole beyond the last cut of rough shall be considered Lateral Penalty Areas, unless otherwise defined by the Committee.
- 7. BUNKERS** shall be defined as dugout areas containing sand which are void of trees or bushes and are surrounded by cut rough. The margin of any Bunker shall be defined by the points at which the ground breaks toward the depression which holds sand, even though areas within the depression may not be covered in sand. Any sand which has spilled outside a Bunker and any raised island of turf within the dugout area shall be considered in the General Area.
- 8. WASTE AREAS** are areas dug out of the ground, containing sand and at least one tree or bush growing within, or are **not** completely surrounded by a regular cut of rough, are within the **General Area**. **Embedded Ball free relief in the rules shall be applicable in all of the General Area.**
- 9. GROUND UNDER REPAIR (GUR)** is any area on the course enclosed by white painted line. Unmarked areas of question **may** be subject to definition by the Committee as GUR. Examples are: tire ruts (in General Areas and Bunkers), exposed tree roots in "closely mown areas", large ant hills, seams of cut turf (relief for swing only), aerification holes in all General Areas (nearest point relief for swing only), edging grooves near putting greens (nearest point relief for swing only), deep water erosion crevices, maintenance spot repair or sanding, damage by animals, mushrooms on putting greens, and entire bunkers filled at their rear with temporary water. Reasonable doubt as to whether there will be relief granted by the Committee should prompt the player to play two balls, first declaring which ball should count if the rules permit.

10. STOPPING PLAY If temporary water surrounds the hole on the putting green, or hazardous conditions such as the nearby lightning threaten player safety, then the group may stop play without penalty, seeking shelter until such conditions dissipate. All players in the group must stop and remain with the group if any one player of that group stops under this rule. The group must resume its play when the stoppage condition dissipates.

11. CELL PHONES may only be used as follows: emergencies, to check for nearby hazardous weather, as an approved GPS range measuring device, to electronically record holes scores into iLEADERBOARD STEPPINGsm (only when required), and for referencing the USGA Rules Of Golf App. Players may gain special pre-authorization from the Committee to use their cell phone, only in special cases such as making calls for health or safety reasons.

12. CODE OF CONDUCT Players must: smooth their own footprints in bunkers, fix/sand their divots, **NOT** throw golf clubs except for short logistical tosses not near any person, not consume alcohol or conduct any illegal activity, not intentionally or carelessly distract any other player. The penalties for any breach of this Code shall normally be first a warning and then the General Penalty, but may be the **DISQUALIFICATION** penalty for extreme or repetitious misconduct. **MERCY RULE:** Players requiring more than 10 strokes over the par for the initial five holes of the round or more than 15 strokes over par for the initial nine holes shall be disqualified, but may remain playing, not making more than the bogey number of strokes before stopping thereafter. The Committee may dismiss any disqualified player from the course.

13. PACE OF PLAY POLICY A players time taken begins when it is the players turn and the player is in the vicinity of his or her ball. No player shall require more than 40 seconds to play a shot. After receiving a Committee warning for the first breach, the penalty for the second breach shall be one stroke, two strokes for the third breach and DQ for the fourth Breach of this rule. Only individual players may be held accountable for their pace of play (no group penalties).

READY GOLF at all times is encouraged and expected.

14. GROUPINGS FOR FOLLOWING ROUNDS When players finish their round with the same total score, the Committee shall use "match of cards" from the first hole of play of the last round played to determine which tied players will play later.

15. SCORECARD BOX suggested by the USGA Official Guide To The Rules Of Golf, Committee Procedures, may be employed by this Committee on an event-by-event basis, for the players return of scorecards. After scorecards are deposited into the box, no alterations are possible under the rules.

16. EVENT SPECIFIC LOCAL RULES published online at OGATOUR.org or stated openly to all the players by the Committee shall take precedence.

17. THIS COMMITTEE shall resolve any dispute or doubtful point on the rules, and its decision shall be final. The Committee shall consist of Frank Magee, and Mary Magee, **only**.

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