

LOCAL RULES & TERMS OF THE COMPETITION

FOR 2026 CALIFORNIA AMATEUR 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 CGA 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.

SCORECARD – Any Local Rules listed on the club scorecard or posted at the host club are unofficial and have no status in CGA competitions.

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 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 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 are connected to a single abnormal course condition when taking relief under Rule 16.1.

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

LIMITED OR EXTENDED RELIEF FOR EMBEDDED BALL – Model Local Rule F-2.3 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.

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

EDGING GROOVES – Model Local Rule F-19 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.

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 player's stance.

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

PROHIBITING USE OF CERTAIN TYPES OF SHOES – Model Local Rule G-7 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.

AUDIO & VIDEO DEVICES (INCLUDING LISTENING TO MUSIC) – Playing and listening to music for any reason, whether through speakers or headphones, is prohibited. The penalty for a Breach of this Term is:

First Breach—Warning
Second Breach—General Penalty
Third Breach—Disqualification

MISSING PLAYER OR MARKER CERTIFICATION – Model Local Rule L-1 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.

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

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

STOPPING AND RESUMING PLAY – Model Local Rule J-1 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures 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 may 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 air horn notes. Resumption of play will be signaled by two short air horn notes.

WHEN COMPETITION IS FINAL –

Stroke Play: When the results and/or qualifiers and alternates have been determined. At championships, when the awards have been presented.

Match Play: When the result of a match has been reported to and verified by the Committee.

CODE OF CONDUCT* – By submitting an entry for any CGA-administered event, the contestant understands that their participation is at the sole discretion of the CGA. A contestant may be removed from an event either before or during the event at the sole discretion of the CGA. Incidents of unbecoming conduct or actions deemed to be detrimental to the image of the CGA or the "Spirit of the Game" are grounds for such removal and suspension from future CGA-administered events.

These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Willful damage of the golf course or golf course property
- Club throwing or unnecessary club tossing
- Offensive or unbecoming language
- Public criticism of golf course or verbal abuse of CGA staff, officials, volunteers, host club staff or other contestants
- Potential endangerment of others
- Conduct deemed unbecoming
- Failure to post scores for handicapping purposes
- Manipulation of scores posted for handicapping purposes

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF CODE OF CONDUCT

First Breach: Warning

Second Breach: Disqualification

*The Committee reserves the right to disqualify a player for serious misconduct without warning.

NCGA TOURNAMENTS

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SCGA CHAMPIONSHIPS & GOLF OPERATIONS

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