



8J – Procedures for Bad Weather and Suspensions of Play

Model Local Rule J-1: Methods of Stopping and Resuming Play

A suspension of play for a dangerous situation will be signaled by one prolonged air horn note. All other suspensions will be signaled by three consecutive air horn notes. In either case, resumption of play will be signaled by two short air horn notes. See Rule 5.7b.

Once play is suspended, players, caddies, and spectators should proceed to the appropriate safety area as instructed by SCGA officials. All practice areas are closed during an immediate suspension for a dangerous situation until the Committee has declared them open.

Procedures for Staff and Rules Officials

In a dangerous situation, SCGA staff and the rest of the tournament committee will make the decision whether to suspend play. Until then, play will continue until the air horns are sounded indicating play is suspended as outlined above.

Suspending Play

1. Rules officials will be alerted by SCGA staff prior to a suspension of play. Please use good radio etiquette and keep the radio clear of all other communication.
2. After it has been decided that play will be suspended, SCGA staff (or others assigned) should be prepared to sound the air horn(s). In preparation for the sound, staff will provide warning over the radio that the horn(s) will sound, and a countdown will take place over the radio immediately prior to the sound. Prior to and during the countdown, rules officials may notify players that the air horn is about to sound to prevent the horn from going off during a player's back swing or stroke.
3. Rules officials should inform players as to the type of suspension. For an immediate suspension, do not allow any player to play another stroke (Rule 5.7b (1)).
4. If it is a normal suspension of play, the procedure depends on whether the players are between two holes or playing a hole (Rule 5.7b (2)).
 - Between Two Holes: If all players in the group are between two holes, they must stop play and must not make a stroke to begin another hole until the Committee resumes play.
 - While Playing Hole: If any player in the group has started a hole, the players may choose either to stop play or to play out the hole.
5. After suspending play, rules officials are to assist by directing players, caddies, and spectators to the appropriate areas for safety as directed by SCGA staff. SCGA staff will keep rules officials apprised of the duration of the suspension, and rules officials are expected to assist in keeping players informed of the situation.

Resuming Play

1. Once it has been decided that play will resume, rules officials should assist in spreading the news to players and assist them in returning to their position on the course, all the while awaiting final instructions over the radio. Rules officials should assist players in getting their ball back in play if there are any questions (the ball is always to be placed under such circumstances).
2. SCGA staff will ask for an accounting of players in position by doing a roll call and calling out for a ready for play report.
3. After all players are in position, staff or other designated officials will be directed to sound the air horn(s).
4. Two short notes of the air horns, repeated, will signal resumption of play.
5. These suspension procedures may be modified only by the tournament committee.

Fog Policy

Whether to commence or continue play in a round when fog is present is a difficult decision. Fog, by its very nature, is not easy to forecast, and it is challenging to predict when it will set in or lift. From a playability standpoint, it is the SCGA's policy to commence/continue play in a round if the landing zones for all shots to be played are visible to the players. In this regard, tee shots requiring the use of drivers may present the most difficult challenge since such shots cover the most distance. Things such as fairway lines, penalty areas, trees, etc., in the drive zone must be visible to a large extent. However, the fact that visibility is partially obscured by fog such that the entire flight of the ball is not possible does not generally require a decision to delay/suspend play.

In situations where two separate courses are being used for the same competition, in the vast majority of cases, if one course delays/suspends play, the other must, too. This should apply (i) whether or not the courses are near each other, and (ii) no matter the reason for delay/suspension (i.e., fog, lightning, etc.). Acting otherwise could present too many scenarios where players are treated differently and perhaps unfairly.