



SCGA Inclement Weather Policies & Guidelines

While we are always hopeful for the best weather possible, players should be prepared to play through rain and other adverse weather conditions. The SCGA, along with the host facility, will monitor the weather forecast, and we will update you, including by text, email, and the Event Portal, if/when plans change. If you don't hear from the SCGA, you can assume the event will be played as scheduled. In general, SCGA events are only shortened, rescheduled, or canceled when a course becomes unplayable, is shut down by management, or there is danger from lightning or other severe weather conditions. **In most instances, this decision can't be made until the day of the event.**

If you wish to withdraw in advance of the event, the SCGA's standard cancellation and refund policies will be in effect unless the event is rescheduled or canceled.

When it is possible to reschedule a SCGA event, active players will remain on the event roster for the newly scheduled date. Players wishing to cancel their registration for the newly scheduled date must email champs@scga.org, and they will be issued a full refund.

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

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.

Fog Guidelines

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 most 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.

Heat Awareness

The SCGA strongly encourages participants to take extra precautions when participating in the heat. Some suggested methods of doing so include:

- Drinking plenty of liquids before, during and after your round. **Players should bring their own drinking water to the event.**
- Consider riding in a golf cart for the event (refer to the Event Portal for more information on golf carts).
- Wearing lightweight clothing.
- Seeking shade whenever possible throughout the round.
- Using a wet towel on the back of your neck.
- For additional suggestions, please review this [Hydration Awareness Flyer](#).

SCGA Incomplete Round Policy: SCGA Qualifiers & Championships

Participants will be notified prior to the start of play if/when the SCGA Incomplete Round Policy is in effect.

Suspension of Play Affecting Terms of Competition

Participants in SCGA-administered competitions should be prepared to play through rain and other adverse weather conditions. However, the Committee will suspend play if there is danger from lightning, the course becomes unplayable, or there are other extreme conditions adversely affecting play. In some situations, lengthy suspensions could prevent some or all players from completing the number of holes expected to determine the results, including the qualifiers and alternates from a qualifying site. If this possibility is recognized before the competition begins and it may not be feasible to reschedule the event to another day, the Committee may alter the Terms of the Competition as outlined below.

Number of Holes and Rounds to be Played

Players will be notified before starting that play consists of two rounds of nine holes each. For those players starting on Hole 1, their first round consists of Holes 1 – 9. For players starting on Hole 10, their first round consists of Holes 10 – 18, unless otherwise specified by the Committee. Conditions permitting, players must continue play into the next nine holes as they would during a regular 18-hole round and record scores on the same scorecard or mobile device.

If the entire field completes both nine-hole rounds, results will be determined based on the total scores of the 18 holes played. If the entire field completes at least nine holes (Holes 1 – 9 or Holes 10 – 18) but fewer than 18 holes, results will be determined based on the nine-hole scores of each player's respective first round. At qualifiers, the Committee reserves the option to consider players starting on different tees to be competing in two separate competitions and to apportion the qualifying and alternate positions accordingly.

Deciding Ties

If ties were expected to be decided by a hole-by-hole play-off but adverse conditions make such a play-off impractical, the Committee will decide ties by matching scorecards. [See Committee Procedures in the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf, Part III, Section 5A (6).]