



Women's Public Links Golf Association of Southern California  
2024 Team Play

## LOCAL RULES AND TERMS OF COMPETITION

ALL PLAYERS MUST BE GIVEN A COPY OF THIS NOTICE FOR USE DURING TEAM MATCHES.

**GOVERNING RULES** The Rules of Golf as approved by the United States Golf Association govern play. These Local Rules and Terms of the Competition are in effect at all WPLGASC Team Match Play competitions. See Eligibility of Team Members and any WPLGASC Notice to Players 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.

**GOLF COURSE LOCAL RULES MAY NOT BE USED** The WPLGASC Team Committee will publish in advance of any team matches a Notice to Players containing any updates to these Local Rules and Terms of Competition. Any doubt, please confirm with your Team Captain or the Team Chair.

**GENERAL PENALTY** is loss of hole in match play. In Four Ball Match Play, in most instances, the penalty applies to the partner at fault. Refer to Rule 23.9 when a penalty applies to one partner only or applies to both partners.

**REPRESENTATION OF A SIDE** A side may be represented by one partner for all or any part of a match. Absent partners may join a match between the play of two holes, but not during play of a hole. Should both players fail to start at the time appointed as defined by Rule 5.3a, the side is disqualified. Rule 23.9b

**DISTANCE MEASURING DEVICES** Distance measuring devices are permitted providing they measure distance only. Any other features such as measuring elevation changes or function to assist with club selection must be disabled. Rule 4.3a

**HONORS** Prior to matches, the Team Captains will toss a coin to determine which team has the "honor" to tee off first on the first hole. Thereafter, the honor on the tee goes to the side who won Gross on the previous hole.

**ORDER OF PLAY** Players should respect the order of play. After the competitors have started play of the hole, the side with the ball that is farthest from the hole plays first. Balls belonging to the same side may be played in the order the side considers best. Each player must be ready to play as soon as it is her turn. Rule 23.6 & Pace of Play Policy

**ADVICE** Any Team player, including the Captain, must not give advice to anyone in the competition playing on the course **other than to her partner**, or ask for advice from anyone other than her partner. Information on the Rules, distance, or matters of public information, such as the position of a penalty area or the flagstick, is not advice. Rules 10.2, 23.5, 24.4c

**CONCEDED HOLES** A side may concede a hole at any time prior to the start or conclusion of that hole. A side may concede a match at any time prior to the start or conclusion of that match. Any concession may not be declined or withdrawn. Both sides may agree to halve a hole only after at least one of the players has made a stroke to begin the hole. Rules 3.2b & 3.2a (2)

**CONCEDED PUTTS** A player may concede the opponent's next stroke. Concessions should be made clearly. A concession made while the opponent's ball is in motion after the previous stroke applies to the opponent's next stroke unless the ball is holed. Any concession may not be declined or withdrawn. Rule 3.2b

**MOST LIKELY SCORE/HOW TO RECORD UNFINISHED HOLES AND CONCEDED STROKES** A player who starts but does not complete a hole, or is conceded a stroke, must record their most likely score for handicap purposes. This most likely score should be preceded with an X. The player's hole score limit is Net Double Bogey: Par + 2 (double bogey) + any handicap strokes for the hole. Refer to Rules of Handicapping 3.3 for guidelines on how to score unfinished holes.

**Once the result of a hole has been decided, for pace of play, players should take most likely score and MOVE ON!**

**OUT OF BOUNDS** Defined by the line between the course-side points of white stakes and fence posts at ground level. Objects defining Out of Bounds such as fences or posts are not obstructions and there is no relief without penalty. Rule 18

**PENALTY AREAS** An area from which relief with a one (1)-stroke penalty is allowed. Penalty areas can be bodies of water on the course, whether marked or not, such as lakes, ponds or rivers. Other parts of the course may be marked as Penalty Areas. Penalty Areas are marked with either red or yellow lines and/or stakes. In the absence of stakes or lines, penalty areas are to be treated as Red Penalty areas and the edge of the penalty areas is defined by its natural boundaries where the ground slopes down. Rule 17

**DROPPING ZONES** All course painted or posted dropping zones are not allowed and must be disregarded unless a Notice to Players course-specific authorization has been provided by the Team Play Committee prior to the starting date of the team competition. Penalty: Rule 14.7a – General Penalty

**PRACTICE** Rule 5.5b is modified in this way: Between the play of two holes, a player must not make any practice strokes on or near the putting green of the hole just completed or test the surface of that putting green by rubbing the putting green or rolling a ball. MLR I-2

**PACE OF PLAY** See the separate "Pace of Play Policy and Best Practices" memorandum for the Pace of Play Policy in effect. The Maximum Allowable Time for completion of an 18-hole match is 4 hours and 30 minutes.

**UNREASONABLE DELAY OF PLAY** In addition to the foregoing, if a player unreasonably delays play, they may be subject to penalty as outlined in Rule 5.6a. If the Committee determines that a player's slow play amounts to serious misconduct, a penalty of disqualification may be imposed in the first instance. (Rule 1.2a.) Penalties for unreasonable delay are independent of penalties issued under the above Pace of Play policy (Rule 5.6a)

**DOUBT AS TO PROCEDURE** During play, if player and opponent disagree whether one of them has breached a Rule or have doubt about how the Rules apply, any player may "request a ruling" under Rule 20.1b(2) to protect their rights.

Captains: *In the event of a question or an unresolved ruling, do not email the results until the matter has been resolved.*

(See the attached **Request A Ruling** document for required timing and procedures.)

### **GROUND UNDER REPAIR (GUR)**

- **Temporary or Aerated Greens** Players must putt out on temporary or aerated greens unless the putt is conceded or the hole is won.
- **Edging Grooves Near Putting Greens** Are GUR but relief is not available when a groove interferes only with the player's stance or line of play. Free relief may be taken using Rule 16.1. MLR F-19
- **Staked Trees** If a player's ball lies anywhere on the course other than in a penalty area, and it lies on or touches such a tree or such a tree interferes with the player's area of intended stance or area of intended swing, the player must take relief under Rule 16.1f. Relief includes from the tree, any stakes and supporting cables. MLR E-10.1
- **Bunker Liners** An exposed bunker liner may be treated as GUR, but interference does not exist if the liner interferes only with the player's stance. Rule 16.1c

### **IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS**

- **Immovable Obstructions close to the putting green (e.g.: sprinkler heads)** Relief is provided only when the immovable obstruction is within 2 club lengths of the putting green and within 2 club lengths of the ball. The obstruction must be on the line of play. Free relief may be taken using Rule 16.1. There is no relief if the player chooses a line of play that is clearly unreasonable. MLR F-5
- **Temporary Fences of Golf Courses** During WPLGASC Team Play, fences or other items that are temporarily installed on golf courses to protect parts of the course from damage from Coots (mud hens) or any other animal, reptile, or bird, are treated as to be immovable obstructions. Often these fences are positioned in or near Penalty Areas. If the player's ball lies in a playable position inside the Penalty Area, the player may not take free relief from interference of the immovable obstruction (temporary fence). The player must play the ball as it lies or proceed under Penalty Area relief. Rule 17.1b.

### **OTHER CLARIFICATION**

- **Ball deflected by Power Line** If it is known or virtually certain that a player's ball hit a power line, tower or poles supporting such lines, the stroke does not count. The player must play a ball without penalty from where the previous stroke was made. See Rule 14.6 for procedure. MLR E-11

**EQUIPMENT** A player's clubs and balls must conform to the USGA Equipment Rules. Rules 4.1a & 4.2a

Further, Rule 4.3a(4) is modified in this way: During a round, a player must not listen to or watch content of any nature on a personal audio (cell phone) or video device. Rule 23.9b(1)

**CODE OF CONDUCT** Incidents of unbecoming conduct or actions deemed detrimental and outside the "Spirit of the Game" are grounds for removal and may result in disqualification and the loss of playing privileges in all WPLGASC events. Rule 1.2 These actions include, but are not limited to:

- Deliberate actions to distract members of the opposing team
- Offensive language
- Inappropriate behavior, potential endangerment of others or club throwing
- Failure to post scores or manipulation of scores posted for handicapping purposes
- Adhering to course dress codes
- Cell phone use (voice or text) should be limited to emergency use only and devices must be set to an inaudible setting.

**PREFERRED LIES ONLY WHEN AUTHORIZED** Captains will notify Players when and where this Local Rule is in effect.

*See Course Conditions under Rain Related Conditions for use of preferred lies*

**RELIEF FROM AERATION HOLES (PUTTING GREEN) ONLY WHEN AUTHORIZED** Captains will notify Players when and where this Local Rule is in effect. *Refer to Course Conditions for requirements and procedures.*

**COMPETITION IS FINAL** The match is final when the results have been verified by the Team Play Committee.

**CADDIES AND GALLERIES** Are not permitted at WPLGASC Team Play Competitions.

**POSTING OF SCORES** All individual scores must be posted. If it is reported to or discovered by the Team Play Committee that any team player is not posting team play scores, a Penalty Score or Scores may be issued and posted on the player's scoring record. Rules of Handicapping 7.1b

**MAJOR TOURNAMENT CREDIT** Each player on the Team Roster will receive 2 CREDITS towards WPLGASC Major Tournament eligibility.

***Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule is the general penalty.***

# Request a Ruling

**Ruling:** The player may protect their rights by asking for a ruling in match play (Rule 20.1b(2)). If the Team Play Committee is not available in a reasonable time to help with a Rules issue, the player(s) must decide what to do and play on. The ruling request must be made before either player makes a stroke to begin another hole **or** before the final result is reported to the Team Play Committee (Rule 3.2a(5)) **or** after the results are Final (Rule 20.1b(3)), as described below.

***If the Team Play Committee is not available in a reasonable time, the player may make the request for a ruling by notifying the opponent that a later ruling will be sought when a Team Play Committee member becomes available.***

**Deciding Issues by Agreement** During a round, the players in a match may agree how to decide a Rules issue. The agreed outcome is conclusive even if it turns out to have been wrong under the Rules, so long as the players did not agree to ignore any Rule or penalty they knew applied (see Rule 1.3b(1))

## **Ruling Request Made Before Result of Match Is Final.**

- **When Player Becomes Aware of the Facts Before Either Player Starts the Final Hole of the Match.** When the player becomes aware of the facts, the ruling request must be made before either player makes a stroke to begin another hole.
- **When Player Becomes Aware of the Facts During or After Completion of the Final Hole of the Match.** The ruling request must be made before the result of the match is final (see Rule 3.2a(5)).

## **Ruling Request Made After Result of Match Is Final**

The Committee will give the player a ruling only if *both* of these apply:

- The opponent breached Rule 3.2d(1) (giving wrong number of strokes taken) **or** Rule 3.2d(2) (failing to tell the player about a penalty) and knew of the breach before the result of the match was final.
- The request is based on facts the player was not aware of before the result of the match was final.

**No Right to Play Two Balls** A player who is uncertain about the right procedure in a match is not allowed to play out the hole with two balls. That procedure applies only in stroke play (see Rule 20.1c).

## **Direct all Questions regarding Local Rules and Terms of Competition to the Team Play Committee**

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***All decisions of the WPLGASC Team Play Committee will be final and will be communicated to the Team Captains involved.***