



**Women's Public Links Golf Association of Southern California
2026 Team Play**

LOCAL RULES AND TERMS OF COMPETITION

GOVERNING RULES The Rules of Golf as approved by the United States Golf Association govern play, including Model Local Rules (MLR) adopted by the WPLGASC Board. These Local Rules and Terms of the Competition are in effect at all WPLGASC Team Match Play competitions. ***Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule is the general penalty.*** Individual golf course Local Rules do not apply.

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.

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

GREEN READING MAPS Digital maps are permitted. Book or paper copy maps must not be larger than 4.25 by 7 inches, and images of the green must be limited to a scale of 3/8" to 5 yards or smaller. Rule 4.3a/1 Ball markers or other devices that 'read' the slope of the green are not permitted. Rule 4.3a(1)/1

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 In match play, you and your opponent may agree that one of you will play out of turn for a particular stroke to save time (Rule 5.6b (2)).

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 PUTTS You may concede the opponent's next stroke. Concession may not be declined or withdrawn.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 maximum is Net Double Bogey: Par + 2 (double bogey) + any handicap strokes for the hole

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 When a player's ball ***has not been found*** or is known or virtually certain to be ***out of bounds***, ***for two penalty strokes the player may take relief by dropping the original ball or another ball in the relief area.*** MLR E-5

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

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.)

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 on Golf Courses** During WPLGASC Team Play, fences or other items that are temporarily installed on golf courses to protect parts of the course. Rule 17.1b.

POWER LINES

- **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

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 dress or behavior, club throwing, etc.
- Failure to post scores or manipulation of scores posted for handicapping purposes
- Cell phone use (voice or text) ~~should be~~ limited to emergency use only and devices must be set to an inaudible setting.

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

POSTING OF SCORES All individual scores must be posted. Team Captains are required to deliver Team scorecards to their Club Handicap Chair within one week of the Match to confirm all player scores have been posted.

PARTICIPATION POINTS Players earn one (1) Participation Point for each Match played, to a maximum of four (4).

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.

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.***