

# Local Rules for Bench Warmer Tournaments

## Maintain pace of play!

**Distance-Measuring Devices** (e.g. laser or GPS) can be used in our tournaments, however they can only be used to measure distance. All other functions MUST BE TURNED OFF! In accordance with USGA rules, these devices **CAN NOT** be used if they suggest CLUB SELECTION or “PLAYS LIKE” to measure other conditions such as SLOPE, ELEVATION, or WIND SPEED. If these can not be turned off on your device, the device can not be used. First infraction = General Penalty (2 strokes), second Infraction = disqualification.

**Ground Under Repair (GUR).** GUR is a term applied to an area on a course considered unfit for play. It is a ground that is damaged and/or being repaired. GUR is marked with white lines. Only areas within the area marked as GUR (e.g. white lines, blue stakes or active maintenance) are eligible for relief.

**The “native areas” can be played as a lateral hazard.** The native areas are the unkept area along the fairways. (If an area is marked with white stakes, or a boundary fence it is out of bounds, see below). Your playing options are:

1. Play it as it lies.
2. Stroke and distance - Replay from previous location
3. Declare it unplayable – 1 stroke.
  - a. 2 club lengths from ball location no nearer to the hole
  - b. Along the line of the **pin and the ball** as far back as you want, no nearer the hole.
4. 2 club lengths from spot where ball crossed into the hazard (not from where found) – one stroke

**Ball Lost or Out of Bounds** (areas marked by white stakes or outside the boundaries or fencing of the golf course). **Local rule E-5 Alternative to Stroke and Distance for Lost Ball or Ball Out of Bounds is in effect.** You have 3 minutes to search starting when you get to the search location. Options are:

1. Replay from previous location – 1 stroke.
2. 2 strokes - Play from 2 club lengths on the edge of the fairway where the ball crossed the OB or is suspected to have come to rest on the course.
3. 2 strokes - Along the line back from the ball reference point and the pin.

**Sprinklers around the green.** Model rule F-5 is in effect. The player may take free relief under Rule 16.1b if an immovable obstruction is:

- On the line of play, and is:
  - Within two club-lengths of the putting green, **and**
  - Within two club-lengths of the ball.

NOTE: Free relief is from the nearest point of relief, not necessarily from the “nicest” point of relief. For example, your nearest point of relief from a cart path may be in the rough or other undesirable location.

## Model Local Rule H-1.1 is in place prohibiting the use of caddies

A player must not have a caddie during the round. Penalty for Breach of Local Rule: The player gets the general penalty for each hole during which they have a caddie. If the breach happens or continues between two holes, the player gets the general penalty for the next hole.

Reasons for implementation of the rule: Pace of play, restrictions on non-players at some golf courses and the restriction on golf carts allowed in the foursome.

**If there is a disagreement or confusion on how to proceed with a rule, play two balls keeping score for each and bring it to the tournament chair. The rules committee will determine the correct score to use. The rules committee for this tournament is the Tournament Chair, our SCGA Handicap Chair, the Club President and may include advice from the staff at the Golf Course. All decisions are final.**

**Play fair – know the rules, play the rules!**