** 2018 RULES OF PLAY GWGA COMPETITIONS**

Play is governed by the 2016 USGA Rules of Golf and its Decisions and, where applicable, by the following Local Rules, Conditions, and Definitions, subject to changes or amendments by the Georgia Women's Golf Association Rules Committee. Appendix I refers to the Appendix of Local Rules and Conditions of the Competition in the 2016 Rules of Golf Book.

Unless otherwise specified, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule or Condition is two strokes in Stroke Play and loss of hole in Match Play.

**1 -** **LISTS OF CONFORMING GOLF BALLS/DRIVER HEADS**: Optional conditions as prescribed in Appendix II & III is in effect.

**2 - TRANSPORTATION**: GWGA Cart Policy is in effect. Only a player or caddie may ride in a cart; **not** both at same time. Penalty for breach of policy: 1st offense, Warning. 2nd offense Two strokes for each hole at which any breach occurred; maximum penalty per round, four strokes.

**3 - FOOTWEAR**: It is a condition of all GWGA Competitions that shoes with traditionally-designed spikes (regardless of composition, e.g., ceramic, plastic, etc.) regardless of design, comprised either entirely or partially of metal (if such metal may come in contact with the course) are prohibited during the stipulated round. Penalty: DISQUALIFICATION.

**4 - DISTANCE MEASURING DEVICES**: Optional condition as prescribed in Appendix IV is in effect. (Distance only, no other function even if turned off)

**5 -** **OFFICIAL TIME**: The official time is located only at the starting tees.

**6 -** **OUT OF BOUNDS**: Where white stakes or fence posts are used, the nearest inside points at ground level define out of bounds. When out of bounds is defined by a white line on the ground, the line itself is out of bounds. A ball coming to rest on or crossing any public road is considered out of bounds, even if it comes to rest on another part of the golf course.

**7 -** **WATER HAZARDS**: Defined by yellow lines and designated by yellow stakes. When both stakes and lines are present, the stakes identify the hazard and the lines define the margin.

**8 - LATERAL WATER HAZARDS**: Defined by red lines and designated by red stakes. When both stakes and lines are present, the stakes identify the hazard and the lines define the margin.

**9 -** **GROUND UNDER REPAIR**: Enclosed white line areas define ground under repair. The white lines are considered in ground under repair. Other areas of ground under repair, even though not so marked include:

a. French drains (trenches filled with small stones or the like).

b. Fire ant beds and mounds.

c. Seams of cut turf: The local rule as prescribed in Appendix I, Part A, 2/3. e is in effect.

**10 -** **IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS; WHITE LINES**: White-lined areas tying into immovable obstructions are part of the obstruction, thus not ground under repair.

**11 -** **LIFTING AN EMBEDDED BALL**: The "EMBEDDED BALL RULE" as written in Appendix I, Part A, 3a is in effect "through the green."

**12 - AERATION HOLES**: “Through the green,” a ball that comes to rest in or on an aeration hole may be lifted, without penalty, cleaned and dropped, as near as possible to the spot where it lay but not nearer the hole. The ball when dropped must first strike a part of the course through the green.

**13 - TURF PLUGS/WILT WATCH HOLES ON PUTTING GREENS**: On putting greens, in addition to Rule 16-1c, turf plugs/wilt watch holes of any size may be repaired.

**14 – INTEGRAL PARTS OF THE COURSE**: Includes cables, rods, wires or wrappings when closely attached to trees; and artificial walls and pilings when located in hazards. No relief without penalty.

**15 - DROPPING ZONES**: A "dropping zone" is an area enclosed by a white line having the initials "DZ" printed inside it. A "dropping zone" is not ground under repair. The line itself is in the "dropping zone."

**16 - STAKED TREES**: If lie of ball, stance, and/or area of intended swing is interfered with by the stake attached to a tree, the stake and/or rope/wire is treated as an Immovable Obstruction. Relief without penalty from the tree itself is not permitted.

**17 - TEMPORARY IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS**: See Appendix I, Part A, 4b (includes obstructions installed for the competition and fans).

**18 - ELEVATED OVERHEAD POWER LINES AND CABLES**: If a ball strikes such a line or cable, the stroke shall be cancelled and the ball MUST be replayed, without penalty in accordance with Rule 20-5. If a ball is not immediately recoverable, another ball may be substituted.

**19 - SIGNALS FOR SUSPENSION AND RESUMPTION OF PLAY**:

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1. **Dangerous Situation:** One prolonged note of siren or air horn and/or verbal notification by an official. "When play is suspended for a dangerous situation, if the players in a match or a group are between the play of two holes, they shall not resume play until the Committee has ordered a resumption of play. If they are in the process of playing a hole, they shall discontinue play immediately and shall not thereafter resume play until the Committee has ordered a resumption of play." All practice areas shall be closed during suspension for a dangerous situation until the Committee has declared them open for use. Penalty: **DISQUALIFICATION.**

2. **Suspend Play:** One prolonged note of siren or air horn and/or verbal notification by an official.

3. **Resume Play:** One prolonged note of siren or air horn and/or verbal notification by an official.

**20 - RESULT OF THE COMPETITION**: When all the scores have been posted on the official scoreboard and approved by the Georgia Women’s Golf Association Rules Committee, the result of the competition is deemed to have been officially announced.