



MPGA Rules of Play and Information

The Minnesota Public Golf Association tournament play is governed by the *USGA Rules of Golf*, and by the following Local Rules and Definitions. Any changes or additions to these will be supplied on a supplementary *Local Rules* sheet which will be issued at the registration area or on starting hole..

Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule or Condition is:

Stroke Play-Two Strokes.

TIME OF STARTING - The player must start at the time laid down by the committee.

If the player arrives at his starting point, ready to play within five minutes of his starting time, the penalty for failure to start on time is two strokes at the first hole in stroke play or loss of the first hole in Match Play. If the player arrives after the five-minute period, the penalty is *disqualification*. This rule has been changed in the 2012-2015 Rules of Golf.

PACE OF PLAY – The pace of play is governed by the MPGA Pace of Play Policy and will be posted at the starting hole(s) of all MPGA competitions and is posted on the MPGA web site www.mpga.net.

DISCONTINUANCE OF PLAY - Signals:

Potentially dangerous situations - One prolonged air horn note, repeated.

Other types of suspension - Three consecutive air horn notes, repeated.

Resumption of play - Two short air horn notes, repeated.

When play is suspended for a potentially dangerous situation, play must discontinue immediately and must not resume until the Committee has ordered a resumption of play.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF LOCAL RULE: *Disqualification*.

WATER AND LATERAL WATER HAZARD STAKES AND LINES

Water hazards are defined by yellow stakes, flags or yellow lines. Rule 26-1.

Lateral water hazards are defined by red stakes, flags or red lines. Rule 26-1.

- When stakes, flags and lines are used to define water and lateral water hazards, stakes and flags identify hazards and lines define margins.
- When a lateral water hazard is defined on only one side, it is deemed to extend to infinity.
- When water hazards and lateral water hazards are bounded by out of bounds, the hazard margin extends to and coincides with the out of bounds line.

GROUND UNDER REPAIR - Defined by white lines. French drains are deemed to be ground under repair.

Flowerbeds on the course also are deemed to be ground under repair. Rule 25-1.

OUT OF BOUNDS - Defined by nearest inside points of stakes, flags, fence posts, and masonry walls at ground level.

When OB is defined by white line on the ground, the line itself is out of bounds. Rule 27-1.



OBSTRUCTIONS - An obstruction is anything artificial, including the artificial surfaces of roads & paths and white lined areas tying into them, except:

- A. Objects defining out of bounds, such as a wall, fences, stakes & railings;
- B. Any part of an immovable artificial object which is out of bounds; and
- C. Any construction declared by the committee to be an integral part of the course. See Rule 24.

TEMPORARY IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS - All tents, scoreboards, and other temporary equipment on the course, provided it is not readily movable, are considered to be Temporary Immovable Obstructions.

PRACTICE BETWEEN HOLES – In all stroke play competitions, between the play of two holes, a player must not play any practice stroke on or near the putting green of the hole last played. This does not preclude a player from finishing out a hole that his score may not be used in team competition. **PENALTY:** *Two Strokes at next hole.*

AUTOMOTIVE TRANSPORTATION – Players may use automotive transportation during all rounds unless local rules for the tournament do not allow automotive transportation..

ELECTRONIC MEASURING DEVICES – The use of these devices is permitted in MPGA championships, devices must only be capable of distance measurement. *Note:* Distance measuring applications downloaded to any Smartphone (Iphone etc) are not permitted

DOUBT AS TO PROCEDURE - If a competitor is doubtful of his rights or procedure, the competitor may play a second ball. Before taking further action, the competitor must announce to his marker or fellow-competitor his decision to proceed under this rule and with which ball he will score with if the rules permit. The player must report the facts to the Committee before returning his scorecard; if he fails to do so, he shall be *Disqualified.* Rule 3-3

OVERHEAD POWER LINES - If a ball strikes an overhead power line or cable, while in bounds, the player must disregard that stroke, abandon the ball and play another ball as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was played in accordance with Rule 20-5.

EMBEDDED BALL - Anywhere “through the green”, a ball embedded in its own pitch-mark in the ground, except in loose sand, may be lifted without penalty, cleaned & dropped as near as possible to the spot where it lay but not nearer the hole.

REPORTING RESULTS - Upon completion of play, players should check their hole-by-hole score carefully. Both the player and the marker must sign the card and return it to the Committee in a prompt manner.

CLOSE OF COMPETITION - The competition shall be deemed to have closed when the trophy has been presented to the winner or, in the absence of a prize ceremony, when the Executive Committee has approved all scores.

The Minnesota Public Golf Association’s Executive Committee authorizes these Rules.

MINNESOTA Public GOLF ASSOCIATION, INC.

www.mpga.net