



# 2025 LOCAL RULES AND TERMS OF THE COMPETITION

The Rules of Golf as approved by the USGA and R&A govern play. These Local Rules and Terms of the Competition are in effect at all NYSGA administered competitions including partner golf associations. See applicable competition Notice to Players and Entry Application for modifications or additions to this document. Complete text of the Local Rules (MLR) outlined below may be found in the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf, effective January 1, 2023.

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

**Code of Conduct** — The NYSGA's Code of Conduct is in effect at all NYSGA administered competitions.

**Pace of Play** [MLR K-2] — The NYSGA Pace of Play Policy is in effect. Any bad times carry over to subsequent stroke play rounds in the competition.

**Out of Bounds (OB)** — Defined by the line between the course-side points, at ground level, of white stakes and fence posts. **Stone Walls** defining OB are boundary objects and a ball is OB when it is beyond the stone wall at ground level [MLR A-3]. A ball that comes to rest on or beyond a **road defined as OB** is OB even though it may lie on another part of the course [MLR A-5].

**Penalty Areas** — When a penalty area is defined on only one side, it extends to infinity. When a penalty area is connected to the edge of OB, the penalty area extends to and coincides with the OB.

**Relief on Opposite Side of Red Penalty Area** [MLR B-2] — MLR B-2 is in effect.

**Artificial walls and pilings**, when located in a penalty area and bunker, are integral objects from which relief is not permitted unless otherwise stated.

**Ground Under Repair (GUR)** is defined by white lines. French drains are GUR. GUR may include areas of unusual damage, including areas where spectators or other traffic have combined with wet conditions to cause unusual damage to the ground surface, but only when so declared by an authorized member of the Committee [MLR E-4]. When immediately adjacent to an immovable obstruction, such an area is part of that obstruction.

**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.

**Animal Near Ball** [MLR E-13] — A player may remove an animal, other than those defined as a loose impediment, that is touching or near their ball without penalty and may do so in any way [MLR E-13].

**Relief from Seams of Cut Turf** [MLR f-7] — Repaired areas with cut turf are GUR even if not marked. Interference only exists when the player's ball lies in or touches a seam, or the seam interferes with the player's area of intended swing.

**Decorative Flower Beds and Turf Nurseries** are no play zones [MLR E-8] and treated as GUR from which relief is mandatory.

**Prohibiting Play from Fringe of Wrong Green** [MLR D-4.2] — Wrong greens are treated as including the fringe. When a player has interference from a wrong green under Rule 13.1f, including this expanded area, the player must take free relief.

**Relief from Aeration Holes** [MLR E-4] — A player is entitled to relief only if their ball lies in or touches an aeration hole.

**Ball Deflected by Power Line** [MLR E-11] — If a ball has hit a power line (includes towers, support wires, or poles supporting the power line) in bounds, the stroke does not count, and the player must replay the stroke (see Rule 14.6).

**Stakes and Cables Supporting Trees**, but not the trees themselves, are immovable obstructions.

**Cables, Rods, Wires and Wrappings** when closely attached to trees are integral objects - no free relief is available.

**White Lines Tied into Immovable Obstructions** — When white lines defining ground under repair tie into an immovable obstruction, such as a turf damage next to a cart path, they are deemed to be connected as a single abnormal course condition when taking relief under Rule 16.1.

**Wood Chips and Mulch** are loose impediments.

**Immovable Obstructions Close to Putting Greens** [MLR F-5]

**Temporary Lines and Cables** [MLR F-22]

**Temporary Immovable Obstructions** [MLR F-23]

**List of Conforming Driver Heads** [MLR G-1]

**List of Conforming Golf Balls** [MLR G-3]

**Groove and Punch Mark Specifications** [MLR-G2]

**Stopping and Resuming Play** [MLR J-1] — The following Method for Suspending and Resuming Play is in effect:

All practice areas are closed during an immediate suspension for a dangerous situation until the Committee has declared them open. Players who practice on closed practice areas will be asked to stop practicing; failure to stop may result in disqualification.

- **One (1) Airhorn Note: IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION (DANGER)**
- **Three (3) Airhorn Notes:** All other types of suspension
- **Two (2) Airhorn Notes:** Resumption of play signal

**Practice** — Prior to and after a round in stroke play, a player may practice on the designated practice areas. Rule 5.2b is modified in this way: A player may not practice on the competition course before or between rounds. Penalty for breach of Local Rule, see Rule 5.2.

**Missing Player or Marker Certification** [MLR L1] — If a player returns a scorecard without being certified completely, the player gets the general penalty (two penalty strokes).

**Scorecard Collection:** Immediately upon completion of a round, a player must return their card to the Committee. A scorecard is considered returned once the player has left the scorecard collection area with no intent to return.

## TERMS OF THE COMPETITION

**Ties and Playoffs** — It is the player's responsibility to keep informed regarding the possibility of playoffs due to ties. The method for resolving ties, if applicable, will be noted on the Notice to Players or announced at starting.

**When Competition is Final** — The competition is final when the trophy has been presented to the winner or, in the absence of a prize ceremony, when all scores have been approved by the Committee.

**The Model Local Rules (MLR) adopted may have been abbreviated - See Section 8 of the Committee Procedures for the full text or consult with an NYSGA official with any questions**