

PGA OF AMERICA

PLAYING ABILITY TEST

Rules of Play

Play is governed by the Rules of Golf effective January 2019, and where applicable, by the following Local Rules and Terms of the Competition. Committee Procedures refers to the Committee Procedures section in the current *Official Guide to the Rules of Golf*. The *Committee* refers to those assigned to administer the Playing Ability Test under the guidance/direction of the to the PGA of America Rules Committee. Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule in *stroke play* is the *general penalty (two penalty strokes)*.

1. **Out of Bounds and Course Boundaries:** *Out of bounds* is defined by the line between the *course-side* points at ground level of white stakes and fence posts.

Note: A ball coming to rest on or beyond a public road is out of bounds, even if it comes to rest on another part of the course that is in bounds for other holes.

2. **Abnormal Course Conditions and Integral Objects**

a. **Ground Under Repair:**

- i) Any area **encircled by a white line**, including gallery crosswalks (except dropping zones or *out of bounds*).
- ii) **Newly trenched areas**, including grass-covered cables.
- iii) **French drains**, which are trenches filled with rocks or stones.
- iv) If a player's ball lies in or touches a **seam of cut turf** or a seam interferes with the player's area of intended swing in the *general area*, the player may take relief under Rule 16.1b.

But interference does not exist if the seam **only** interferes with the player's *stance*.

All seams within the area of cut turf are treated as the same seam in taking relief. This means that if a player has interference from any seam after *dropping* the ball, the player must proceed as required under Rule 14.3c(2) even when the ball is within one club-length of the reference point.

- v) **Painted lines or dots** in a part of the *general area* cut to fairway height or less.

But interference does not exist if the painted lines or dots interfere **only** with the player's *stance*.

b. **Immovable Obstructions:**

- i) **Asphalt and artificially surfaced roads and paths.** White lined areas of *ground under repair* tying into such roads or paths are treated as a single *abnormal course condition* when taking relief under Rule 16.1.
- ii) **Railroad ties, curbing** or other similar artificial edges adjoining cart paths are part of the same *obstruction*.
- iii) **Secured mats and plastic cable ramps** covering cables.

c. **Integral Objects (Free relief not allowed):**

- i) **Artificial retaining walls** and/or pilings when located in *penalty areas*.

- ii) **Wires, cables, wrappings, signs and lightning rods** closely attached to trees or objects defining *out of bounds*.
- iii) **Bunker liners** in their intended position.

Note: The *Committee* may treat an exposed liner, not in its intended position, to be *ground under repair*, but interference does not exist if a liner only interferes with the player's *stance*.

- d. **Temporary Immovable Obstructions:** Model Local Rule F-23 in Committee Procedures is in effect and includes any Temporary Immovable Obstruction installed for the competition.

3. **Restrictions on Use of Specific Equipment**

- a. **List of Conforming Driver Heads:** Any driver the player uses to make a *stroke* must have a clubhead, identified by model and loft, which is on the current List of Conforming Driver Heads issued by the USGA.

Penalty for Making a *Stroke* with Club in Breach of this Local Rule: Disqualification.

There is no penalty under this Local Rule for carrying, but not making a *stroke* with a driver that is not on the List of Conforming Driver Heads (See Model Local Rule G-1 in Committee Procedures).

- b. **Groove and Punch Mark Specifications:** In making a *stroke*, the player must use clubs that conform to the groove and punch mark specifications in the *Equipment Rules* that took effect on 1 January 2010. Ping Eye 2 irons manufactured before 31 March 1990 with a groove spacing to groove width ratio of 2.3 to 1 are allowed for play under the Rules of Golf, even when this Local Rule is in effect (See Model Local Rule G-2 in Committee Procedures).

Penalty for making a *Stroke* with Club in Breach of this Local Rule: Disqualification.

There is no penalty under this Local Rule for carrying, but not making a *stroke* with a club which does not conform to these groove and punch mark specifications.

- c. **List of Conforming Golf Balls:** Any ball used in making a *stroke* must be on the current List of Conforming Golf Balls issued by the USGA. This list is posted in the locker room and starting tees and is regularly updated and can be found at www.usga.org.

Penalty for Making a *Stroke* at a Ball Not on Current List in Breach of this Local Rule: Disqualification.

4. **Restrictions on Practice**

- a. **Before or Between Rounds:**

Rule 5.2 is modified in this way: A player must not practice on the competition *course* before or between *rounds*.

Penalty for Breach of this Local Rule:

Penalty for first breach: *General Penalty* (applied to the player's first hole).

Penalty for second breach: Disqualification.

- b. **Between the Play of Two Holes:**

A player must not make any practice *stroke* 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.

5. **Procedures for Bad Weather and Suspensions of Play**

a. **Methods for Stopping and Resuming Play:**

A suspension of play for a **dangerous situation** will be signaled by **one prolonged note** of a siren or horn. **All other suspensions** will be signaled by **three consecutive notes** of a siren or horn. In either case, **resumption of play** will be signaled by **two short notes** of a siren or horn. See Rule 5.7b.

Note: All practice areas are **closed** during an immediate suspension for a **dangerous situation** until the *Committee* has declared them open.

b. **Removal of Temporary Water on the Putting Green:**

If a player's ball lies on the *putting green* and there is interference by *temporary water* on the *putting green* the player may:

- Take free relief under Rule 16-1d **or**
- Have their *line of play* squeegeed

Such squeegeeing should be done across the *line of play* and extend a reasonable distance beyond the *hole* (that is at least one roller length) and only be carried out by individuals designated by the *Committee*.

Note: The *Committee* may squeegee the *putting green* at any time.

6. **Committee Pace of Play Policy:** See Rule 5.6b(3). The Local Rule setting a Pace of Play Policy, including penalties for not following this Policy, is published and posted in the locker room and starting tees.

7. **Starting Point Defined:** For the purpose of applying Rule 5.3a, the **starting point** for hole #1 and hole #10 is defined by the rope, gallery stakes, green bike fencing and/or blue stakes, blue dots or blue lines.

8. **Returning Scorecard:** For the purpose of applying Rule 3.3b(2), a player's *scorecard* is treated as returned when the player has first left the scoring area with both feet.

9. **Measuring Condition of Putting Greens:** Before or between *rounds* on any day of the competition or play-off, a player or *caddie* must not use any device that measures the condition (slope, texture, firmness, or moisture level) of any *putting green* on the *course*. The use of such a device is only permitted on practice days.

10. **When the Result of the Competition is Final:** When all scores have been posted on the official scoreboard and approved by the *Committee*, the competition is closed.