

LOCAL RULES AND TERMS OF COMPETITION FOR GULF COAST WOMEN'S GOLF ASSOCIATION

The Rules of Golf as approved by the USGA and R&A Rules Limited govern play, January 2023 edition. These Local Rules and Terms of Competition are in effect at all Gulf Coast Women's Golf Association tournaments.

The paper scorecard is the official scorecard in all Gulf Coast tournaments. The host club scorecard has no status.

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

OUT OF BOUNDS: Defined by the line between the course-side points of white stakes, lines and/or boundary fence posts at ground level.

Penalty for a ball lost or out of bounds is stroke and distance. This supersedes any host club's local rules.

PENALTY AREAS: When a penalty area is connected to the out of bounds edge, the penalty area extends to, and coincides with out of bounds line.

GROUND UNDER REPAIR: Defined by white lines. White lined areas of ground under repair tying into immovable obstructions are treated as a single obstruction. French drains (trenches filled with stones or the like) are ground under repair.

RELIEF FROM SEAMS OF CUT TURF (SOD SEAMS): 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: Ball in General Area, relief under rule 16.1b; Ball on Putting Green: Relief under 16.1d. But interference does not exist if the seam only interferes with the player's stance. See Model Local Rule F-7 as described in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures and Rule 16, Relief from Abnormal Course Conditions.

IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTION CLOSE TO PUTTING GREENS: For a ball in the general area, relief may be taken under 16.1b when both the ball and obstruction lie in an area cut to fairway height or less. The obstruction must be located: i) on or within two club-lengths of the putting green, ii) On the player's line of play and iii) The ball must be within two club-lengths of the obstruction. See Model Local Rule F-5-2 as described in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures and Rule 16, Relief from Abnormal Course Conditions.

INTEGRAL OBJECTS: Include objects when closely attached to trees and boundary objects, and artificial walls and pilings when located in penalty areas or in or adjacent to bunkers, and bunker liners. An exposed bunker liner may be treated as ground under repair, but interference does not exist if the liner interferes only with the player's stance

DROPPING ZONES: Dropping Zones are not in effect during the play of GCWGA tournaments; host club local rules allowing for the use of Dropping Zones are not in effect.

PENALTIES IN STABLEFORD: All penalties that apply in stroke play apply in Stableford, except that a player who breaches any of these four rules is not disqualified but gets zero points for the hole where the breach occurred:

- (1) Failure to hole out;
- (2) Failure to correct mistake of playing from outside the teeing area in starting a hole (See Rule 6.1b(2));
- (3) Failure to correct mistake of playing a wrong ball (see Rule 6.3c);
- (4) Failure to correct mistake of playing from a wrong place when there is a serious breach (see Rule 14.7b).

MISSING PLAYER OR MARKER CERTIFICATION: If a player returns a scorecard without the hole scores being certified either by the player, the marker or both, the player gets the general penalty (two penalty strokes). See Model Local Rule L-1 as described in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures, Modification of Penalty for Missing Player or Marker Certification.

WHEN COMPETITION IS FINAL: The competition is final when captains have certified team scorecards and submitted results, and the results have been announced.

PACE OF PLAY: If a group is out of position and does not split up into twosomes, penalties may be applied to the entire foursome that would include a 1 point reduction from each player's total Stableford Points. See Gulf Coast WGA Pace of Play policy.

CODE OF CONDUCT: See Gulf Coast WGA Code of Conduct