

# Sun City Summerlin Womens Golf Club (SCSWG) Local Rules 2025

(As of September 1, 2025)

The Rules of the United States Golf Association govern play.  
 The penalty for breach of a Local Rule (unless noted otherwise) =  
 Stroke Play = Two Strokes | Match Play = Loss of Hole.

See below for Local Rules adopted by the SCSWGC ([Local and USGA Rule citations in blue](#))

- 1) **Pace of Play:** Ready Golf is encouraged during tournaments. If a group finishes the round of 18 holes more than the starting interval behind the group in front and over 4 hours and 15 minutes from the time of starting, all players in the group are subject to a one-stroke penalty. [USGA Model Local Rule K-1](#)
- 2) **Prohibiting or Restricting Use of Audio and Video Devices:** Cell Phones and Audio Devices (speakers) must be silent on the course. Cell phones may be used only as a distance measuring device, for mobile scoring, and emergency purposes. Use of audio and video devices is prohibited. [USGA Model Local Rule G-8](#)
- 3) **Maximum Score / “X” Scores:** For all tournament play **except Club Championship or other tournaments** that will be identified at the start of the competition. **If the tournament requires that the player hole out every hole and the player picks up their ball, without holing out, they will be disqualified.** No more than four holes with “X”s will be allowed for posting to GHIN (Golf Handicap Information Network).

For other tournaments, when a player does not hole out, the following maximum score shall be noted on the scorecard with an “X” (use the lower score of the two listed below):

- a. Net double bogey = Par of the hole + 2 (double bogey) + any handicap strokes (i.e., “pops) = maximum score to note on the scorecard with an “X” (Example: Hole is a par 4. Double bogey would be a 6. Player has 1 handicap stroke (pop). 4 + 2 + 1 = 7 is the X Score

**OR**

- b. Most likely score (MLS) = The number of strokes already taken to reach a position on a hole + the number of strokes the player would most likely require to complete the hole from that position, + any penalty strokes incurred during play of the hole. The following guidelines should be used to determine the MLS

Position of the Ball	Strokes to be Added
If the ball lies on the putting green, and is no more than 5 feet (1.5 metres) from the hole:	Add one additional stroke.
If the ball lies between 5 feet (1.5 metres) and 20 yards (20 metres) from the hole:	Add 2 or 3 additional strokes, depending on the position of the ball, the difficulty of the green and the ability of the player.
If the ball lies more than 20 yards (20 metres) from the hole:	Add 3 or 4 additional strokes, depending on the position of the ball, the difficulty of the green and the ability of the player.

[USGA Rule 21.2, USGA Rules of Handicapping 3.3](#)

- 4) **Alternative to Stroke and Distance for Lost Ball or Ball Out of Bounds:**  
Purpose. When a provisional ball has not been played, significant issues with pace of play can result from a player needing to take stroke-and-distance relief for a ball that is out of bounds or cannot be found. The purpose of this Local Rule allows an extra relief option for a player to play on without returning to the location of the previous stroke.

When a player's ball has not been found or is *known or virtually certain* to be *out of bounds*, the player may proceed as follows rather than proceeding under *stroke and distance*. Player may also choose stroke and distance for a one-stroke penalty.

For **two penalty strokes**, the player may take relief by *dropping* the original ball or another ball in the *relief area* (see Rule 14.3):

**Two Estimated Reference Points:**

- a. **Ball Reference Point:** The point where the original ball is estimated to have:
  - Come to rest on the *course*, or
  - Last crossed the edge of the *course* boundary to go *out of bounds*.
- b. **Fairway Reference Point:** The point of fairway of the hole being played that is nearest to the ball reference point, but is not nearer the *hole* than the ball reference point.

**For purposes of this Local Rule, "fairway" means any part of the general area cut to fairway height or less.**

**Size of Relief Area Based on Reference Points:** Anywhere between:

- a. A line from the *hole* through the ball reference point (and within two *club-lengths* to the outside of that line), and
- b. A line from the *hole* through the fairway reference point (and within two *club-lengths* to the fairway side of that line).

A player may also use this option to take relief for a provisional ball that has not been found or is known or virtually certain to be out of bounds. [USGA Model Local Rule E-5](#)

- 5) **Bunker Lining:** Bunker lining (located in bunkers) is to be treated as an immovable obstruction from which free relief is allowed under Rule 16.1c. Free relief is the nearest point of complete relief, dropped within one club length, and the relief area **MUST** be in the bunker. Back-on-the-line relief is also an option with a one-stroke penalty. Relief is granted if the bunker lining interferes with the ball, stance, or intended swing area of the player. [USGA Model Local Rule F-18](#)
- 6) **Desert Landscape:** Desert landscape includes all rocks, crushed granite, dirt, bushes, trees, etc. These are considered in the General Area of the course, and no free relief is allowed. Options are to play the ball as it lies or follow unplayable options with a one-stroke penalty.
- 7) **Highland Falls:**
  - a. 8<sup>TH</sup> Hole – Right of Cart Path
    - i. The drainage area and cement bridge to the right of the cart path is considered out of bounds.
  - b. 15th Hole – Rock Penalty Area:
    - i. Should player's ball be hit into the rock penalty area (the area defined to the left of the green (across the cart path) that extends upwards and continues to the next hole #16.), for a one-stroke penalty, the player may:
      - a. Utilize the drop zone as identified by the signage and makers OR;
      - b. Use the stroke and distance option OR;
      - c. Should player have room to drop within a two-club length area from where the ball entered the penalty area **AND THE DROP IS NOT CLOSER TO THE HOLE**
    - ii. Should player **NOT** choose one of these options they may play the ball as it lies within the penalty area (no penalty). Back-on-the-line is not an option for this hole if the ball is hit into this penalty area.
  - c. 16<sup>th</sup> Hole – Rock Area (the area that needs to be hit over in the middle of the fairway):

1. The player may take back-on-the-line relief. This drop incurs a one-stroke penalty. The player is NOT required to re-tee or use stroke and distance penalty. If the first ball is found it may be played with no penalty.
2. If the ball is outside the rock area and the fixed stakes and chains interfere with the player's stance, swing, or lie, free relief is granted and the ball shall be dropped within one club-length of the nearest point of complete relief, but not closer to the hole than the original spot. **DO NOT REMOVE THE STAKES OR CHAINS SURROUNDING THIS AREA.**

8) **Aeration Holes:** If a player's ball lies in or touches an aeration hole:

- a. **Ball in General Area.** The player may take relief under Rule 16.1b. If the ball comes to rest in another aeration hole the player may take relief again under this Local Rule. USGA Rule 16.1b =
  - i. Free relief is allowed when the ball is in the general area and there is interference by an abnormal course condition.
  - ii. The nearest point of complete relief should be identified, and a ball must be dropped in and come to rest in the relief area.
  - iii. The relief area is one club-length from the reference point, is not nearer to the hole than the reference point and must be in the general area.
  - iv. When taking relief, the player must take complete relief from all interference by the abnormal course condition.
- b. **Ball on Putting Green.** The player may take relief under Rule 16.1d. USGA Rule 16.1d =
  - i. When a ball in on the putting green and there is interference by an abnormal course condition, free relief may be taken by placing a ball on the nearest point of complete relief.
  - ii. The nearest point of complete relief must be either on the putting green or in the general area.

**But** interference does not exist if the aeration hole only interferes with the player's *stance* or area of intended swing or, on the *putting green*, on the player's *line of play*. [USGA Model Local Rule E-4 \(Local rule establishes that aeration holes are considered an Abnormal Course Condition – Ground Under Repair\)](#)

9) **Immovable Obstructions Close to Putting Greens (I.e., sprinkler heads around green):**

The player has an option to take relief when such immovable obstructions (I.e., sprinkler heads) are on or close to the putting green and on the line of play:

**Ball in General Area.** The player may take relief under Rule 16.1b if an immovable obstruction is:

- a. On the line of play, and is:
  - On or within two club-lengths of the putting green, and
  - Within two club-lengths of the ball.

But complete relief must be taken, which includes both physical and line of play interference.

Exception – No Relief If Line of Play Clearly Unreasonable. There is no relief under this Local Rule if the player chooses a line of play that is clearly unreasonable. [USGA Model Local Rule F-5.1](#)

10) **Landscape Timbers and Concrete Curbing:** Landscape timbers and concrete curbing, not marked as penalty areas, are considered immovable objects (abnormal course condition) and free relief is granted under [USGA Rule 16.1a](#)

11) **Ground Under Repair:** Areas defined by white lines or flags, or French drains, are ground under repair. (Under exceptional circumstances, the foursome can deem an area under repair (I.e., maintenance left an open hole in the fairway)) – [Local Rule](#)). [USGA Rule Definitions 23 XI and USGA Rule 16.1](#)

12) **Relief from Seams of Cut Turf:**

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:

- a. **Ball in General Area.** The player may take relief under Rule 16.1b. (free relief)
- b. **Ball on Putting Green.** The player may take relief under Rule 16.1d. (free relief)

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

[USGA Model Local Rule F-7](#)

- 13) **Loose Impediment:** This is something not fixed or growing, such as twigs, stones, fallen branches, leaves, and living creatures. These can be removed without penalty unless removal causes the ball to move. **IF THE BALL MOVES, REPLACE THE BALL AND TAKE A ONE-STROKE PENALTY.** [USGA Rule 15.1](#)
- 14) **Accumulations of Loose Impediments:** During play any ground with temporary accumulations of landscape debris (grass clippings, trimmings, leaves, etc.) in the general area or in a bunker is treated as ground under repair from which free relief is allowed under Rule 16-1. [USGA Model Local Rule F-14](#), [USGA Rule Definitions 23 XI](#), and [USGA Rule 16.1](#)
- 15) **Animal Dung:**  
At the player's option. Dung of a bird or other animal (including but not limited to geese, ducks, coyotes, dogs, cats, raccoons, etc.), may be treated either as:
- Loose impediment that may be removed under Rule 15.1, or
  - Ground under repair from which relief is allowed under Rule 16.1 (only when the ball lies on the dung or the dung is adhering to the ball). Lift, clean, and drop the ball within the one club-length relief area no closer to the hole. No penalty.
  - This relief is available for lie of the ball, not area of intended swing or stance.  
[Local Rule – Committee Procedures 8F](#) and [USGA Model Local Rule F-12](#)
- 16) **Course Boundaries and Out of Bounds:** Defined by white stakes, white lines, boundary fences and objects, property lines (including, but not limited to, fences, walls, other objects defining property lines), perimeter walls and public roads. A ball which crosses a public road is out of bounds even if it comes to rest beyond that road and may lie on another part of the course. [USGA Model Local Rule A-1](#), [USGA Rule 16.1a](#)
- 17) **Conduct Expected of All Players:** (USGA Rule 1.2) – All players are expected to play in the spirit of the game by:
- Acting with integrity – for example, by following the Rules, applying all penalties, and being honest in all aspects of play.
  - Showing consideration to others – for example, by playing at a prompt pace, looking out for the safety of others, and not distracting the play of another player. If a player plays a ball in a direction where there might be a danger of hitting someone, they should immediately shout a warning, such as the traditional warning of “fore”.
  - Taking good care of the *course* – for example, by replacing divots, smoothing *bunkers*, repairing ball-marks, and not causing unnecessary damage to the *course*.
- Players guilty of serious misconduct will be under review by the Committee. Penalty structure: 1st breach - one stroke penalty, 2nd breach - General Penalty (two strokes), 3rd breach - disqualification. Two disqualifications will result in not allowing participation in a future competition. [Local Rule – USGA Committee Procedures, 5I Code of Conduct Policy](#)
- 18) **Scorecards:** Rule 3.3b(2) is modified in this way:
- If a player returns a *scorecard* without the hole scores being certified by the player and *marker*, the player gets the **general penalty (two penalty strokes)**.
  - The penalty applies to the last hole of the player's *round*.  
[USGA Model Local Rule L1](#)