

SCSWG Rules and Local Rules 2023

The Rules of the United States Golf Association govern play. *The penalty for breach of a Local Rule or Condition is: Stroke Play - Two Strokes. Match Play- Loss of Hole. Other rule penalties as noted. [Rule reference in blue.](#)*

Play in the Spirit of the Game: USGA unequivocally states the Committee's authority to disqualify a player for any serious misconduct that is contrary to the spirit of the game including the following:

- Not acting with integrity- following rules, applying all penalties, and being honest in all aspects of play.
- Not showing consideration to others including Players, Pros, Marshalls; and not showing respect, playing at a prompt pace, using inappropriate language, looking out for safety of others and not distracting the play of another player.
- Not Taking good care of the course- i.e., raking bunkers, replacing or filling divots, and repairing ball marks.
- 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 5-1 \(5\)](#)

Loose Impediment: The definition of a loose impediment is something that is not fixed or growing. Twigs, stones, fallen branches, leaves and living creatures are considered loose impediments as long as they are neither embedded or growing into the ground nor stuck on the golf ball, and can be removed without penalty unless removing it causes the ball to move. If ball moves, replace ball with one stroke penalty. Players must play the course as it lies... you can't pull weeds, break off or bend a branch or bush if it is growing or permanent. [Local Rule 15.1](#)

Aeration Holes: If a player's ball lies in or touches an aeration hole in the General Area or on Putting Green take relief; No relief if in the player's stance or on the line of play. [Local Rule E-4](#)

Alternative Rule to Stroke and Distance for Lost or Out of Bounds Ball: Should the player choose not to play a provisional ball. Drop a ball in the General Area where the ball was lost or went out of bounds no nearer the hole. A two-stroke penalty is incurred. [Local Rule E-5](#)

Staked Trees & Bushes- Fairway 150 yd markers: To prevent damage to 150-yard staked trees and bushes, they are deemed in a no-play zone. If the tree/bush interferes with the player's area of intended stance or area of intended swing, the player must take relief. [Local Rule E-10](#)

Bird Droppings and Animal Dung: If bird dropping or animal dung is sticking to the ball, lift, clean, and place the ball no closer to the hole with no penalty. This may be treated as Loose impediments or Ground under repair. This is for lie of the ball, not the area of intended swing or stance. [Local Rule E-12](#)

Cart Ramps: If your ball is sitting on bare ground that is an extension of a cart path or ramp, the player takes relief no closer to the hole without penalty. [Local Rule F-1](#)

Landscape Timbers and Concrete Curbing: The timbers and curbs are deemed as integral objects. Free relief - no closer to hole. [Local Rule F-1, F-24](#)

Sprinkler Head- Nearest Point of Relief: Player is entitled to relief from interference by an immovable obstruction (sprinkler head) on the line of play and that is within two club-lengths of the putting green and within two club-lengths of the ball. Player takes relief and then one club length in any direction but not nearer the hole. No relief if line of play is clearly unreasonable. [Local Rule F-5.](#)

Ground Under Repair: Areas defined by white lines or flags, French drains and seams from cut turf 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 F-7](#)

Accumulations of Loose Impediments: During play any ground with temporary accumulations of landscape debris (grass clipping or trimmings, etc.) in general area or in a bunker is treated as ground under repair from which free relief is allowed. [Local Rule F-14](#)

Cell Phones & Audio Devices must be Silent on the course: Cell phone maybe used only as a distance measuring device, for mobile scoring and emergency purposes. Use of Audio & Video devices are prohibited. [Local Rule G-8](#)

Pace of Play Policy: This was developed to encourage and enforce prompt 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 penalty stroke. [Local Rule K-1, K-3](#)

Scorecards: Players are required to return scorecards with the hole scores and must be certified by another player, marker or both. *Local Rule L-1*

Bunker Lining Material & Drainage Trough: If a ball comes to rest on exposed material or if it interferes with intended swing, the player must take relief no closer to the hole. The dropped ball must stay in the bunker.
SCSWG Local Rule

Desert Landscape: No relief from crushed granite or rocks. Options are to play the ball as it lies or follow unplayable ball relief – one-stroke penalty.
SCSWG Local Rule

"X" Scores: When the player picks up on a hole, you must mark an "X" with the score that you most likely would have had- e.g., 5X or 8X. No more than 4 holes with X's are allowed for posting to GHIN. "X" scores do not count in a tournament. *SCSWG Local Rule*

Highland Falls 16th Hole- Rock Hazard Area:

- Player hits ball and it may have gone into the rock hazard area, player hits a provisional ball. Use the spot that the ball last crossed into the penalty area to determine relief. The player may go back in the general area and drop as far back-on-the-line between that spot and the hole.
- If the first ball is found, play it without penalty. If the first ball is lost, play the provisional ball with a one-stroke penalty.
- If the ball is outside the rock hazard and the fixed stakes and chains interfere with the player's stance, swing, and lie, free relief is granted.

SCSWG Local Rule