

# Rules of Play <sup>2024-1</sup>

*To promote consistency with the USGA Rules of Golf,  
these Rules of Play shall guide Committee governance of play.*

**1. SCORECARD PRINTED RULES** Any local rules printed on the official scorecard shall be in effect. Local rule signs and Drop Areas on the course **SHALL NOT** be in effect unless specified by the Committee.

**2. ONE BALL RULE** All players are required to play with same make and model ball with which play was begun. The player incurs the General Penalty for each hole during which this rule was violated.

**3. TEEING GROUND** On each hole the teeing ground shall be defined by the tee marker(s) designed for the hole which are furthest from the hole, i.e., the back most tee marker(s), unless specified otherwise by the Committee.

**4. PUTTING GREEN LIBERTIES** Players in accordance with the rules and without unduly delaying play may on the putting green, repair: ball marks, shoe damage, scrapes, indentations, old hole plugs, turf plugs, seams of cut turf, animal tracks, and embedded objects, but **NOT** surface imperfections such as; weeds, bare or diseased spots and uneven growth. Player's that improve "...the conditions affecting the stroke", except through justified repair shall incur the General Penalty for breach of USGA Rule 8.1. Also, players should obtain agreement with their marker or another player as to whether an imperfection on the green is damage repairable under the rules.

**5. OUT OF BOUNDS** White stakes, and associated white lines, outer fences/walls and automobile roadways/parking lots shall define Out Of Bounds. [Balls coming to rest on the golf course beyond the defined OB are also Out Of Bounds.]

**6. PENALTY AREAS** Often indicated by yellow or red stake(s), Penalty Areas shall be defined by like colored painted lines. In the absence of painted lines, all areas on each hole beyond the last cut of rough shall be

considered Lateral Penalty Areas, unless otherwise defined by the Committee.

**7. BUNKERS** Dugout areas containing sand which are void of trees or bushes and surrounded by regular cut rough shall be defined as Bunkers. The margin of any Bunker shall be defined by the points at which the ground breaks toward the depression which holds sand, even though areas within the depression may not be covered in sand. Any sand which has spilled outside a Bunker and any raised island of turf within the dugout area shall be considered in the General Area.

**8. WASTE AREAS** Dugout areas containing sand and having at least one tree or bush growing within, or are **not** surrounded by regular cut rough are deemed to be within the **General Area**.

**9. GROUND UNDER REPAIR (GUR)** Areas on the course surrounded by a white painted line are deemed Ground Under Repair (GUR). Unmarked areas in questionable state of possible repair **may** be subject to definition by the Committee as GUR. Examples are: tire ruts (in General Areas and Bunkers), exposed tree roots in “closely mown areas”, large ant hills, seams of cut turf (relief for swing only), aerification holes in all General Areas (nearest point relief for swing only), edging grooves near putting greens (nearest point relief for swing only), deep erosion crevices, maintenance spot repair or sanding, damage by animals, mushrooms on putting greens, and entire bunkers filled at their rear with temporary water. Reasonable doubt as to whether there will be relief granted by the Committee should prompt the player to play two balls, first declaring which ball should count if the rules permit.

**10. STOPPING PLAY** If temporary water surrounds the hole on the putting green, or hazardous conditions such as the nearby lightning threaten player safety, then the group may stop play without penalty, seeking shelter if necessary until such conditions dissipate. All players in the group must stop and remain with the group if any one player of that group stops under this rule. The group must resume its play when the stoppage condition dissipates.

**11. CELL PHONES** For the following reasons, Cell Phones may be utilized: emergency situations, to check for nearby hazardous weather, as an approved GPS range measuring device, to electronically record holes scores into iLEADERBOARD STEPPINGsm (only when required), and for referencing the USGA Rules Of Golf App. Players may gain special pre-authorization from the Committee to use their cell phone, only in special cases such as making calls for health or safety reasons. Violation of this rule shall be deemed a violation of the CODE OF CONDUCT.

**12. CODE OF CONDUCT** Players must: smooth their own footprints in bunkers, fix/sand their divots, **NOT** throw golf clubs except for short logistical tosses not near any person, not consume alcohol or conduct any illegal activity, not use any audio device eg. listen to music, intentionally or carelessly distract any other player. The penalties for any breach of this Code shall normally be first a warning and then the General Penalty, but may be the **DISQUALIFICATION** penalty for extreme or repetitious misconduct . **Incompetent play** requiring more than 10 strokes over the par for the initial five holes of the round or more than 15 strokes over par for the initial nine holes shall be cause for player disqualification. But the disqualified player may continue play, not making more than the bogey number of strokes on any hole before stopping. The Committee may dismiss any disqualified player from the course.

**13. PACE OF PLAY POLICY** A players time taken begins when it is the players turn and the player is in the vicinity of his or her ball. No player shall require more than 40 seconds to play a shot. **After receiving a Committee warning** for the first breach, the penalty for the second breach shall be one stroke, two strokes for the third breach and the disqualification penalty for the fourth breach of this rule. Only individual players may be held accountable for their pace of play (no group penalties). **READY GOLF** at all times is encouraged and expected.

**14. GROUPINGS FOR FOLLOWING ROUNDS** For multi-day events, when players finish their round with the same total score, the Committee shall use “match of cards” from the first hole of play of the last round played to determine the order in which tied players will start play.

**15. SCORECARD BOX** suggested by the USGA Official Guide To The Rules Of Golf, Committee Procedures, may be employed by the Committee on an event-by-event basis, for the players **return of scorecards**. After scorecards are deposited into the box, the player will be regarded as having departed the scoring area. **Then no scorecard changes are permitted under the rules.**

**16. EVENT SPECIFIC LOCAL RULES** are printed online at [OGATOUR.org](http://OGATOUR.org), in the Rules section, or when stated openly to the players by the Committee, Event Specific Local Rules shall take precedence over other rules.

**17. THE COMMITTEE** Disputes or doubtful points on the rules shall be resolved by the Committee, whose decision shall be final. The Committee shall consist of the Allied Activity owner(s) or their designee(s) **only**.

***Leaderboards and events results may be found at OGATOUR.org,  
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