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# 2016 Rules of Play

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Play is governed by the most current Rules of Golf and the Decisions based upon them published by the United States Golf Association and the R&A Rules Limited, where applicable, by the following Local Rules and Definitions. Appendix I refers to Appendix of Local Rules in the Rules of Golf booklet.

**LIST OF CONFORMING GOLF BALLS** – It is a condition of the competition that players must use a brand of ball on the current list of Conforming Golf Balls.

**LIST OF CONFORMING DRIVER HEADS** – It is a condition of the competition that any driver the player carries must have a clubhead identified by model and loft that is named on the current list of Conforming Driver Heads.

**TIME OF STARTING** – If the player arrives at his starting point, ready to play, within five minutes after his starting time, the penalty for failure to start on time is loss of the first hole in match play or two strokes at the first hole in stroke play. Penalty for breach of this Rule is disqualification.

**PACE OF PLAY – (Rule 6-7 Undue Delay)** A player will be subject to penalty if he unduly delays play. The Local Rule of Pace of Play is in effect and posted.

**PRACTICE BETWEEN HOLES NOT PERMITTED** – Practice at putting green of the last hole played is prohibited. Reference Rule 7-2 and Note 2.

**WHITE-LINED AREAS TYING INTO ARTIFICIALLY-SURFACED ROADS AND PATHS** - Have the same status as the roads or paths, and thus they are obstructions and not ground under repair.

**EMBEDDED BALL THROUGH THE GREEN** - Local Rule as prescribed in Appendix I is in effect. Anywhere “through the green,” a ball that is embedded in its own pitch-mark in the ground may be lifted, without penalty, cleaned and dropped as near as possible to where it lay but not nearer the hole.

**GROUND UNDER REPAIR** - Defined by white lines. Fire ant hills and French drains are deemed to be ground under repair. Rule 25-1

**SOD SEAMS** – Through the green, sod seams (not the sod itself) are deemed to be ground under repair, and relief is available under Rule 25-1 if the ball lies in or touches a sod seam or the sod seam interferes with the area of intended swing. All seams within the sodded area are considered the same seam.

**MULCHED OR GRAVEL PATHWAYS** – Mulched or gravel pathways are immovable obstructions. Individual pieces of mulch or gravel are loose impediments. Elsewhere, when used other than on pathways, mulch and gravel are loose impediments.

**POWER LINES AND CABLES** – If a ball strikes an elevated power line or cable, the stroke is canceled and the player must play a ball as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was played in accordance with Rule 20-5 (making next stroke from where previous stroke made). If the ball is not immediately recoverable, another ball may be substituted.

**INTEGRAL PARTS OF THE COURSE** – Integral parts of the course are areas on the course from which relief is not granted. **Integral parts include:** cables, rods, wires or wrappings when closely attached to trees and artificial walls and pilings when located in hazards.

**WATER AND LATERAL WATER HAZARD STAKES AND LINES** - When a lateral water hazard is defined on only one side, it is deemed to extend to infinity. When water hazards and lateral water hazards are bound by out of bounds, the hazard margin extends to and coincides with the out of bounds line.

**OUT OF BOUNDS** - Defined by inside points, at ground level, of white stakes and/or fence posts. In areas where out of bounds is defined by a white line on the ground, the line itself is out of bounds.

**Note:** A ball which crosses a public road defined as out of bounds and comes to rest beyond that road is out of bounds, even though it may lie on another part of the course.

**DISTANT MEASURING DEVICES** – A player may obtain distance information by using a device that measures or gauges distance. Other artificial devices, unusual equipment and using equipment in an unusual way are not included in this exception permitted by the Committee. For those instances, the penalty clause will apply. (*Penalty for Breach of Rule 14-3: Match Play – Loss of Hole; Stroke Play – 2 Strokes*)

**TEMPORARY IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS** – Appendix I is in effect and includes any temporary obstructions installed for the Competition including ropes and stakes surrounding any tent or structure.

**SUSPENSION OF PLAY DUE TO DANGEROUS SITUATION** - Optional Condition as prescribed in Appendix I is in effect. All practice areas are closed during the suspension for a dangerous situation until the Committee has declared them open.

Note: A suspension for a dangerous situation will be signaled by one prolonged note of siren. All other types of suspension will be signaled by three consecutive notes of siren. Resumption of play will be signaled by two short notes of siren.

**CLOSE OF COMPETITION** – The competition is deemed to have closed when the trophy has been presented to the winner or, in the absence of a prize ceremony, when all scores have been approved by the Committee.