



USGA Open

Notice to Players

USGA Rules of Golf effective January 1, 2016 and the local rules on both sides of this sheet govern play at this USGA qualifying round. Disregard local rules printed on the club score card.

GROOVES SPECIFICATIONS: In Local qualifying, Sectional qualifying and in the Championship proper, the player's clubs must conform to the groove specifications in the Rules of Golf that are effective from January 1, 2010.

THE ONE-BALL RULE IS IN EFFECT: The ball used must appear on the most recent List of Conforming Golf Balls.

LIST OF CONFORMING DRIVER HEADS: Optional Condition as prescribed in Appendix I is in effect.

TRANSPORTATION: Players must walk at all times during a stipulated round. Optional condition as prescribed in Appendix I is in effect.

RULE 3-3 - DOUBT AS TO PROCEDURE: In stroke play only, when during play of a hole a competitor is doubtful of his rights or procedure, he may, without penalty, complete the hole with two balls. After the doubtful situation has arisen and before taking further action, the competitor 1) should announce to his marker or a fellow-competitor that he intends to play two balls and 2) which ball he wishes to count if the Rules permit. The player **MUST** report the facts of the situation to the Rules Committee before returning his score card. If he fails to do so, he is disqualified.

BALL AT REST MOVED ON PUTTING GREEN: When a player's ball lies on the putting green, there is no penalty if the ball or ball-marker is accidentally moved by the player, his partner, his opponent, or any of their caddies or equipment.

The moved ball or ball-marker must be replaced. This Local Rule applies only when the player's ball or ball-marker lies on the putting green and any movement is accidental. Note: If it is determined that a player's ball on the putting green was moved as a result of wind, water or some other natural cause such as the effects of gravity, the ball must be played as it lies from its new location. A ball-marker moved in such circumstances is replaced.

EMBEDDED BALL: "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. The ball when dropped must first strike a part of the course through the green. *Exceptions:* 1. A player may not take relief under this Local Rule if the ball is embedded in sand in an area that is not closely mown. 2. A player may not take relief under this Local Rule if interference by anything other than the condition covered by this Local Rule makes the stroke clearly impracticable.

WATER HAZARDS: Water hazards are identified by yellow stakes and defined by yellow lines. Lateral water hazards are identified by red stakes, defined by red lines and include unmarked drainage ditches and other open water courses. 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 bounded by out of bounds, the hazard margin extends to and coincides with the out of bounds line.

GROUND UNDER REPAIR: is defined by white lines. Fire ant hills and french drains are ground under repair. White-lined areas tying into cart paths are part of those obstructions. 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.

TEMPORARY IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS: Greenside fans, starting, scoring and concession tents are deemed to be temporary immovable obstructions (TIO's). See page 149 of the 2016 Rules of Golf for interference and relief procedure.

INTEGRAL PARTS OF COURSE: include cables, rods, wires or wrappings when closely attached to trees; artificial walls and pilings when located in hazards, unless otherwise provided for in Notice to Players.

OBSTRUCTIONS: Liners in bunkers are obstructions. The liner will be treated as a movable obstruction if it may be moved without unreasonable effort, without unduly delaying play and without causing damage. Otherwise, it will be treated as an immovable obstruction.

PACE OF PLAY: A group that is out of position will be advised of the situation and the individuals may be timed. The players will be notified that exceeding 40 seconds to play their next shot will result in a penalty of one stroke. A second violation will result in a two stroke penalty, followed by disqualification for a third violation.

A player's time to play begins when the player has had a reasonable opportunity to reach his or her ball and when it is the player's turn to play and can do so without interference or distraction. Penalties are applied individually, but more than one competitor in a group may be penalized.

PRACTICE: Prior to his round in stroke play, a player may practice on the designated practice areas. Rule 7-1b applies to other practice in stroke play, and Rule 7-1a covers practice before the round in match play.

TIME OF STARTING: A player is responsible for being at the assigned tee promptly to begin play on time. A player should arrive at the assigned tee prior to the player's starting time in order to receive all information. Players will not be called to assigned tees.

If a player arrives late but within five minutes of the assigned starting time, the penalty for failure to start on time is two strokes at the first hole.

DISCONTINUANCE OF PLAY: Three short consecutive air horn blasts. Players in the process of playing a hole may complete the hole. Players in between the play of two holes shall stop play immediately.

DISCONTINUANCE OF PLAY FOR DANGEROUS SITUATION: A suspension of play for a dangerous situation will be signaled by one long air horn blast. All players shall be informed of the suspension verbally. All play shall cease immediately upon notification. All practice areas shall be closed during a suspension of play, until the Committee has declared them open again.

RESUMPTION OF PLAY: Signaled by two short consecutive air horn blasts.

SCORE CARD: A score is deemed to be returned when the player has exited the scoring area.

PLAYOFF: A hole by hole playoff to determine a qualifying or alternate position will begin when such a situation is determined. Players are responsible for making themselves available at the scoreboard to receive playoff instructions.

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.