



# AHSAA General Rules of Play

*The Rules of Golf as approved by the United States Golf Association and The R&A govern play at this AHSAA Championship.  
Disregard local rules printed on the club score card.*

*Unless otherwise specified, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule or Condition is two strokes in Stroke Play*

**CODE OF CONDUCT:** All championship participants must adhere to the AHSAA Code of Conduct as provided in the AHSAA Golf Handbook. The Tournament Committee may assess any or all of the following penalties based on severity and frequency of the violation(s):

- First breach of the Code of Conduct – warning or Committee sanction
- Second breach - one-stroke penalty
- Third breach – general penalty
- Fourth breach or any serious misconduct - immediate disqualification from the tournament at which the violation occurs

**MAXIMUM SCORE:** Maximum score per hole in AHSAA Competitions is 9 strokes. The hole is completed when the player holes out, chooses not to do so or when his or her score has reached the maximum. To encourage pace of play, players are encouraged to stop play of a hole when their score has reached the maximum. (Rule 21.2)

**ADVICE GIVER:** Each team may name one advice giver whom players on the team may ask for advice and receive advice from in between play of each hole. The advice giver is only allowed to give advice to his/her team members from “green to tee” and only if it does not disrupt the pace of play during all AHSAA competitions. The team must identify each advice giver to the Committee before any player on the team begins his or her round. The player gets the general penalty for each hole during which he or she is in breach of this local rule. (Model Local Rule H-1.3)

**SPECTATOR CART POLICY:** Spectator carts are allowed at the discretion of the club after the AHSAA requirements have been met.

**GOLF BALLS:** Only brands of golf balls on the USGA’s latest List of Conforming Golf Balls may be used. Penalty for use of brand not on the List: Disqualification.

**LIST OF CONFORMING DRIVER HEADS:** Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. (Model Local Rule G-3)

**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. Official starting clocks are located on the starting tees. If a player arrives late but within five minutes after the assigned starting time, the penalty for failure to start on time is two strokes at the first hole in stroke play or loss of the first hole in match play (Rule 5.3a).

**PROHIBITING USE OF MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION:** During a round, a player must not ride on any form of motorized transportation except as authorized or later approved by the committee. If the breach occurs between the play of two holes, it applies to the next hole. A player who will play, or has played, under penalty of stroke and distance is always authorized to accept motorized transportation from a coach or committee member. (Model Local Rule G-6)

**PROHIBITING USE OF AUDIO AND VIDEO DEVICES:** Rule 4.3a(4) is modified in this way: During a round, a player must not listen to or watch content of any nature on a personal audio or video device.

**PENALTY AREAS:** When a penalty area is defined on only one side, it extends to infinity. When a penalty area is connected to the out-of-bounds edge, the penalty area extends to and coincides with the out of bounds.

**PRACTICE:** Prior to and after a round in stroke play, a player may practice on the designated practice areas. Rule 5.2b covering practice in stroke play is modified in this way: A player may not practice on the competition course before or between rounds.

**GROUND UNDER REPAIR:** Defined by white lines. Fire ant hills and French drains are ground under repair. White-lined areas of ground under repair and the cart paths they tie into are treated as a single abnormal course condition when taking relief under Rule 16.1b. Ground under repair may include area of unusual damage where spectators or other traffic have combined with wet conditions to alter the ground surface materially, but only when so declared by an authorized member of the committee.

**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, the player may take relief under Rule 16.1b (ball in General Area) or 16.1d (ball on putting green). Interference does not exist if the seam only interferes with the player’s stance. All seams and edges within the area of cut turf are considered the same seam or edge.

**INTEGRAL OBJECTS:** Include cables, rods, wires or wrappings when closely attached to trees, unless otherwise denoted. No relief without penalty.

**TEMPORARY IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS:** Greenside fans, starting, scoring and concession tents are deemed to be temporary immovable obstructions (TIO’s). Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedure is in effect. See Model Local Rule F-23 for interference and relief procedure. Additionally, a player may use “either side” relief when proceeding under this rule.

**CELL PHONES:** Except for emergencies and rulings, cell phone use during a stipulated round is prohibited. First Offense-Warning; Second Offense-Disqualification

**OUT OF BOUNDS:** Defined by inside points, at ground level, of white stakes and fence posts and inside edge of curbs on all public roads. When out of bounds is defined by a white line on the ground, the line itself is out of bounds. 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.

**ELEVATED POWER LINES:** If a ball strikes an elevated power line or cable, the stroke **must be canceled and replayed**, without penalty (Model Local Rule E-11).

**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 warning. A second violation will result in a one stroke penalty. A third violation will result in a two-stroke penalty followed by disqualification for a fourth 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.

**SUSPENSION OF PLAY:** A suspension of play for a dangerous situation will be signaled by one long air horn blast. All play must cease immediately. All players are informed of the suspension verbally. All other suspensions will be signaled by 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 must stop play immediately. All practice areas are closed during an immediate suspension of play for a dangerous situation until the Committee has declared them open again.

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

**SCORING AREA:** A player that remains within the defined scoring area (i.e. tent, scoreboard patio, clubhouse room, etc.) may make alterations to their scorecard, with the consent of their marker or the Committee, even after their score card has been signed and handed to an official. A score card is considered returned once a player leaves the defined scoring area.

**WHEN COMPETITION IS FINAL:** The competition is final when the championship trophy has been presented to the winner or, in the absence of a prize ceremony, when all scores have been approved by the Committee.