

RULES OF PLAY AND CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION FOR RIGA CHAMPIONSHIPS

Rhode Island Golf Association tournament play is governed by the *USGA Rules of Golf*, and by the following Local Rules and Definitions. Any changes or additions to these will be supplied on a *Notice to Competitors* and/or supplementary *Local Rules* sheet.

Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule or Condition is:

Match Play—Loss of Hole ; Stroke Play—Two Strokes

Rules of Play

OUT OF BOUNDS: Defined by nearest inside points of stakes, flags, fence posts, and masonry walls at ground level. When OB is defined by white line on ground, the line itself is out of bounds. Rule 27-1

ROADS AND PATHS: Artificially surfaced road and paths, including any surrounding curbing, are immovable obstructions. White lined areas which tie into these immovable obstructions are deemed to be part of the obstruction.

WATER and LATERAL WATER HAZARD Stakes and Lines: **Water Hazards** are defined by yellow stakes, flags or yellow lines. Rule 26-1. **Lateral Water Hazards** are defined by red stakes, flags or red lines. Rule 26-1. When stakes, flags and lines are used to define water and lateral water hazards, stakes and flags identify hazards and lines define margins. 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.

AERATION HOLES: Through the green, a ball that comes to rest in or on an aeration hole may be lifted without penalty, cleaned and dropped as near as possible to the spot where it lay but not nearer the hole. The ball when dropped must first strike a part of the course through the green. On the putting green, a ball that comes to rest in or on an aeration hole may be placed at the nearest spot not nearer the hole that avoids the situation.

WOOD CHIPS AND MULCH: Are loose impediments, unless otherwise provided in Local Rules/Notice to Competitors.

EMBEDDED BALL: Anywhere “through the green”, a ball embedded in its own pitch-mark in the ground, except in loose sand, may be lifted without penalty, cleaned and dropped as near as possible to the spot where it lay but not nearer the hole. Appendix 1 - Local Rules.

SOD SEAMS: Through the green, seams of cut turf (not the turf itself) are deemed to be ground under repair. However, interference by a seam with the player's stance is deemed not to be, of itself, interference under Rule 25-1. If the ball lies in or touches the seam or the seam interferes with the area of intended swing, relief is available under Rule 25-1. All seams within the cut turf area are considered the same seam.

GROUND UNDER REPAIR: Defined by white lines. French drains are deemed to be ground under repair. Rule 25-1

INTEGRAL PARTS OF THE COURSE: Includes all on course stone walls, cables, rods, wires or wrappings when closely attached to trees, liners in bunkers and artificial walls and pilings when located in hazards, unless otherwise provided for in Notice to Competitors/Local Rules.

STONES IN BUNKERS: Are deemed to be moveable obstructions. Rule 24-1.

Conditions of Competitions

ELECTRONIC MEASURING DEVICES: A player may obtain distance information by using a device that measures distance only. If, during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance-measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his play (e.g., gradient, wind speed, temperature, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 14-3, for which the penalty is disqualification, regardless of whether any such additional function is actually used.

CONFORMING BALL RULE: Optional Condition as prescribed in Appendix 1 is in effect.

PACE OF PLAY: See separate memorandum to players for pace of play guidelines, when applicable.

DISCONTINUANCE OF PLAY—SIGNALS:

Potentially Dangerous Situations - One Prolonged Airhorn note.

Other types of suspension - Three consecutive Airhorn notes.

Resumption of Play - Two Short Airhorn notes.

When play is suspended for a potentially dangerous situation, play must discontinue immediately and must not resume until the Committee has ordered a resumption of play. All practice areas must be closed during suspension for a potentially dangerous situation until the Committee has declared them open. **Penalty For Breach of Local Rule:** *Disqualification*

REPORTING RESULTS: Upon completion of play, players should check their hole-by-hole score carefully. Both the player and the marker must sign the card and return it to the Committee in a prompt manner.

RIGA CONDUCT POLICY: By submitting an entry, or by participating in any RIGA competition, the player understands that their participation is at the sole discretion of the RIGA. A contestant may be removed from any competition at the discretion of the RIGA at any time before or during the competition. Incidents of unbecoming conduct or actions deemed to be detrimental to the image of the RIGA or the “Spirit of the Game” are grounds for such removal and possible suspension from future RIGA events. These include, but are not limited to the following: cheating; willful destruction of the golf course/property; public criticism of golf course or verbal abuse of RIGA staff, officials, volunteers, host club staff or other contestants; club throwing and/or physical endangerment of others; offensive or excessively loud behavior; inappropriate golf attire; or other conduct deemed to be unbecoming.

CLOSE OF COMPETITION: The competition shall be deemed to have closed when the trophy has been presented to the winner or, in the absence of a prize ceremony, when the committee has approved all scores.