



2025 ILLINOIS PGA Local Rules and Terms of the Competition



The Rules of Golf govern play, except as modified below by the Illinois PGA. The following Local Rules and Terms of the Competition apply and may be found in the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf, effective January 1, 2023. See the applicable competition's "Notice to Players" for additional definitions, Local Rules or amendments.

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

Match Play – Loss of Hole

Stroke Play – Two Strokes

1. **Out of Bounds** – Rule 18

Defined by course-side or inside edge, at ground level of white lines, white stakes, property fence posts or walls. All public roads are deemed out of bounds and, if not otherwise marked, the course-side edge of the curbing shall be the boundary. In the absence of a curb, the nearest course-side edge of the asphalt shall be the boundary. A ball coming to rest on or beyond a road is out of bounds, even if it comes to rest on another part of the course that is in bounds for other holes (Model Local Rule A-3).

2. **Penalty Areas** – Rule 17

a. Relief on Opposite Side of Red Penalty Areas:

Red penalty areas with an opposite side relief option will be permitted at all times. Model Local Rule B-2.1. Note: When the edge of a red penalty area coincides with the boundary of the course, Model Local Rule B-2.2 is in effect and modifies the first paragraph of Model Local Rule B-2.1.

3. **Abnormal Course Conditions** – Rule 16

a. Ground Under Repair:

- i. Areas completely encircled with white lines.
- ii. French drains, which are trenches filled with rocks or stones.
- iii. Seams of cut turf – Model Local Rule F-7.
- iv. A hole made by a movable obstruction (stakes, signs, tables, chairs or the like) may be treated as Ground Under Repair by the Committee. But interference does not exist if the hole only interferes with the player's stance.

b. Immovable Obstructions:

- i. White lined areas tying into an obstruction are treated as a single abnormal course condition, not ground under repair.
- ii. When landscaped garden areas (flower beds, shrubbery, or the like) are completely encircled by an obstruction, the obstruction and landscaped area are treated as one abnormal course condition.
- iii. Roads or paths surfaced with wood chips or mulch; the individual pieces of wood chips or mulch are loose impediments.
- iv. When railroad ties, curbing or the like adjoin roads and paths, they are deemed to be part of the same abnormal course condition.

c. Removal of Temporary Water:

Model Local Rule J-2 is in effect. If a ball lies on the putting green and there is interference by temporary water on the putting green, the player may: Proceed under Rule 16.1.

4. **Aeration Holes**

Model Local Rule E-4 is in effect. If a player's ball lies in or touches an aeration hole (1) in the general area, the player may take relief under Rule 16.1b. If the ball comes to rest in another aeration hole the player may take relief again under this Local Rule or (2) on the putting green, the player may take relief under Rule 16.1d. Interference does not exist if the aeration hole only interferes with the player's stance or, on the putting green, on the player's line of play.

5. **Integral Objects**

- a. Bunker Liners – An exposed liner is ground under repair under Rule 16.1. But interference does not exist if the liner only interferes with the player's stance.
- b. The portion of wrappings, wires, cables, and other objects when closely attached to trees or objects defining Out of Bounds.
- c. Artificial retaining walls and/or pilings when located within penalty areas.

6. **Immovable Obstructions Close to a Putting Green (E.G. Sprinkler Heads)**

Model Local Rule F-5 is in effect and is modified as follows: For a ball in the general area, relief is allowed only when both the ball and the immovable obstruction lie in an area cut to fairway height or less. The player may take relief under Rule 16.1b if an immovable obstruction is on the line of play and is within two-club lengths of the putting green and within two club lengths of the ball. There is no relief under this Local Rule if the player chooses a line of play that is clearly unreasonable.

7. **Permanent Elevated Power Lines or Cables**

Model Local Rule E-11 is in effect and is modified as follows: If it is known or virtually certain that a player's ball hit a power line in bounds, the stroke does not count. The player must play a ball without penalty from where the previous stroke was made in accordance with Rule 14.6.

8. **Temporary Immovable Obstructions (TIO's)** – Model Local Rule F-23.

Includes tents, signs, greenside fans, and other temporary immovable obstructions installed specifically for the Competition.

9. **Specifications of Clubs and the Ball**

- a. List of Conforming Driver Heads – Model Local Rule G-1 is in effect. Penalty for making a stroke with club in breach of this Local Rule – Disqualification.
- b. List of Conforming Golf Balls – Model Local Rule G-3 is in effect. Penalty for making a stroke with a ball in breach of this Local Rule – Disqualification.
- c. The "One Ball Rule" is not in effect.

10. **Pace of Play** – Rule 5.6b (3).

See posted Illinois PGA Pace of Play Guidelines for pace of play and penalties.

11. **Stopping Play; Resuming Play** – Rule 5.7

Model Local Rule J-1 is in effect as follows:

- a. Immediate Suspension (Dangerous situation): One prolonged note of the air horn.
- b. Normal Suspension (Non-Dangerous situation): Three short notes of the air horn.
- c. Resume Play: Two short notes of the air horn.

Note: During an immediate suspension for a dangerous situation, all practice areas are closed until the Committee has declared them open. Players who disregard such closing are subject to disqualification and disciplinary action.

12. **Practice** – Rule 5

- a. Before or between rounds in stroke play – Model Local Rule I-1.1 is in effect and Rule 5.2b is modified as follows: A player must not practice on the competition course, but may practice on the designated practice areas. Penalty for breach of Local Rule, see Rule 5.2.
- b. Between the play of two holes in stroke play – Model Local Rule I-2 is in effect and Rule 5.5b is modified in this way: Between the play of two holes, a player must not: Make any practice stroke on or near the putting green of the hole just completed or test the surface of that putting green by rubbing the putting green or rolling a ball. Penalty for Breach of Local Rule: General Penalty.

TERMS OF THE COMPETITION

13. **Ties and Playoffs**

Contestants are reminded of their responsibility to keep informed regarding the possibility of playoffs due to ties. The method for resolving ties will be posted at the scorer's table, if applicable.

14. **Scorecard Returned**

a. Scoring Area: For the purpose of applying Rule 3.3b(2), a player's scorecard is treated as returned 15 minutes after the scorecard is accepted into the electronic scoring system.

Exception: A player's scorecard is returned if any of the following four events occur, even if it occurs before the 15-minute time limit has expired or the player is still in the scoring area:

- i. Starting times have been released after a cut has been made.
- ii. The player begins their next round.
- iii. Any player has made a stroke to begin a playoff.
- iv. The result of the competition is final.

b. Modification of Penalty Under Rule 3.3b(2) for Missing Player or Marker Certification: If a player *accidentally* returns a scorecard without the hole scores being certified either by the player, the marker or both, the player gets the general penalty (two penalty strokes). The penalty applies to the last hole of the player's round. (Model Local Rule L-1)

15. **When Result of Competition is Final**

The competition is final when all scores have been approved by the Committee. In the event of a play-off, the competition is final when the play-off scores have been approved by the Committee.

16. **Code of Conduct**

By signing an official entry form, registering online, or verbally committing to compete in a Illinois PGA event, the player agrees to abide by the prescribed Code of Conduct that can be found in the Illinois PGA Tournament Rules & Regulations. Violations of the Rules of Conduct can result in a fine and/or loss of playing privileges.