

MHSAA Golf Rules and Conditions (Hard Card)

Play is governed by the R&A USGA Official Guide to the *Rules of Golf*, effective January 2023. Any changes or additions to this card will be supplied on a supplementary rules sheet. **Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a local rule or condition is Match Play – GENERAL PENALTY (Loss of Hole); Stroke Play – GENERAL PENALTY (Two Strokes).**

DISREGARD THE GOLF COURSE LOCAL RULES AND DROPPING ZONES (ball drops).

Late to Tee: All players must be present on the tee at the time laid down by the Committee. The order of play is irrelevant. See Rule 5.3.

Balls and Clubs: Non-conforming golf clubs, balls and tees shall not be used. *Penalty for making a stroke with/at a non-conforming club/ball – disqualification.*

Practice: Between the play of two holes, a player must not make a practice stroke or roll a ball on or near the putting green of the hole last played. Model Local Rule I-2

Pace of Play: A player is subject to penalty if the player unduly delays play. Rule 5.6. Expected pace of play is 15 minutes per hole.

No Play Zone, Flower Beds: Mandatory free relief must be taken for any flower bed that is not in a penalty area. Rule 16.1. Also see Rules 2.4 and 14.7b/1&2.

Penalty Areas: See the Definition of Penalty Area. If 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 out of bounds.

Penalty Area Relief When Cart Path Borders a Red Penalty Area: If a player's ball is in a red *penalty area*, including when it is *known or virtually certain* that the ball came to rest in the *penalty area*, and the edge of that *penalty area* (as defined by red lines) is bordered by a cart path, in proceeding under Rule 17.1d the player **may** establish a new reference point as follows: The ball is treated as having crossed the edge of the *penalty area* at a point that is directly across the cart path and not nearer the hole than where the original ball last crossed the edge of the *penalty area*. From this new reference point, the player may proceed under any applicable option of Rule 17.1d for one penalty stroke. Once the player's ball is back in play, if the player then has interference from the cart path, under Rule 16.1a, the player may either play the ball as it lies or take relief under Rule 16.1b or c, as applicable.

Dropping Zones: The player does not have to stand in the dropping zone when dropping the ball. When a player is using a dropping zone, the relief area is defined by that dropping zone and the ball must be dropped in and come to rest in the dropping zone (see Rule 14.3). The dropping zone is defined by a line on the ground, the line is inside the dropping zone.

If Preferred Lies Are Authorized: Model Local Rule E-3 *“When a player's ball touches part of the [general area](#) cut to fairway height or less on any authorized hole(s) and the player is playing the hole(s), the player may take free relief once by placing the original ball or another ball and playing it from this [relief area](#):*

Reference Point: Spot of the original ball.

Size of Relief Area Measured from Reference Point: one *club-length*, from the reference point, but with these limits:

Limits on Location of Relief Area:

Must not be nearer the *hole* than the reference point, and

Must be in the *general area*.

In proceeding under this Local Rule, the player must choose a spot to place the ball and use the procedures for *replacing* a ball under Rules 14.2b(2) and 14.2e.

Penalty for Playing Ball from a *Wrong Place* in Breach of Local Rule: *General Penalty Under Rule 14.7a.*”

Integral Objects of the Course: No relief; includes rods, cables, wires or wrappings when closely attached to trees, liners in bunkers, retaining walls and pilings when located within penalty areas or within and/or around bunkers. The integral objects of the course may be touched with a club or otherwise. Rule 2.3

Prohibiting Use of Audio (Ear Buds) and Video Devices: Model Local Rule G-8 is in effect.

Immovable Obstructions Close to Putting Greens: Model Local Rule F-5.2 is in effect.

Automotive Transportation: Players must not ride on any form of transportation during a round unless for an emergency or to return to where the previous stroke was played, or if an MHSAA Medical Waiver for use of a motorized cart is obtained. Also, players may ride from green to the next teeing ground only on holes where shuttle carts have been approved by the committee. Model Local Rule G-6 is in effect.

Caddies: Are prohibited. Model Local Rule H-1.1 is in effect.

Distance Measuring Devices: That measure distance and direction only are allowed. Rule 4.3

Scoring in Maximum Score is in Effect. Maximum score for any Hole is Ten (10) Strokes Rule 21.2b:

(1) **Player's Score on Hole.** A player's score for a hole is based on the player's number of strokes (including *strokes* made and penalty strokes), **except** that the player will get only the maximum score even if the actual score exceeds the maximum.

A player who does not *hole out* under the Rules for any reason gets the maximum score for the hole.

To help pace of play, players are to stop playing a hole when their score has reached the maximum. The hole is completed when the player *holes out*, chooses not to do so or when his or her score has reached the maximum.

(2) **Score Entered for Each Hole.** To meet the requirements in Rule 3.3b for entering hole scores on the *scorecard*:

If Hole Is Completed by Holing Out:

When Score Is Lower Than Maximum The *scorecard* must show the actual score.

When Score Is Same as or Higher Than Maximum The *scorecard* must show either no score or any score at or above the maximum.

When Score Certified for Any Hole is Higher than the Actual Score for the Hole, but Lower than the Maximum. The posted score stands.

If Hole Is Completed Without Holing Out. If the player does not *hole out* under the Rules, the *scorecard* must show either no score or any score at or above the maximum.

The *Committee* is responsible for adjusting the player's score to the maximum for any hole where the *scorecard* shows either no score or any score above the maximum and, in a handicap competition, for applying handicap strokes.

Rule 21.2c Penalties in Maximum Score

All penalties that apply in *stroke play* apply in *Maximum Score*, **except** that a player who breaches any of these four Rules is not disqualified **but** gets the **maximum score** for the hole where the breach happened:

Failure to *hole out* under Rule 20.1c(3),

Failure to correct mistake of playing from outside the *teeing area* in starting a hole (see Rule 6.1b(2)),

Failure to correct mistake of playing a *wrong ball* (see Rule 6.3c), or

Failure to correct mistake of playing from a *wrong place* when there is a *serious breach* (see Rule 14.7b).

If the player breaches any other Rule with a penalty of disqualification, the player is **disqualified**.

After applying any penalty strokes, the player's score for a hole cannot exceed the maximum score set by the *Committee*.

Rule 21.2d Exception to Rule 11.2 in Maximum Score

Rule 11.2 does not apply in this situation:

If a player's ball in motion needs to be *holed* to score one lower than the maximum score on the hole and any person deliberately deflects or stops the ball at a time when there is no reasonable chance it can be *holed*, there is no penalty to that person and the player gets the maximum score on the hole.

Rule 21.2e When Round Ends in Maximum Score

A player's *round* ends when the player:

Holes out on his or her final hole (including correction of a mistake, such as under Rule 6.1 or 14.7b), or

Chooses not to *hole out* on the final hole or already will get the maximum score on the hole.

Suspension of Play Due to a Dangerous Situation: Any suspension of play requires players to discontinue play immediately and not resume play until the Committee has so ordered. Evacuate to a safe place. *Penalty for breach of condition – disqualification.* Rule 5.7b(1)

Suspension: One prolonged note of an air horn or other means.

Resumption: Two short notes of same, repeated.

Players have the right to stop play if they think lightning threatens them, even though the Committee may not have specifically authorized it by signal.

Coaching: MHSAA coaching rules apply as adopted by the MHSAA Committee.

Close of Competition: The competition shall be deemed closed when the trophy has been awarded to the winner(s) or in the absence of a prize ceremony, when all scores have been approved by the Committee and results have been announced.

RULES COMMITTEE Determined & Coordinated by MHSAA Regional & Finals Managers