



Rules and Conditions of MWGA Competitions Revised March 2024

The current USGA Rules of Golf are in effect. Please take note of the local rules and information.

STARTING TIME The player must start the round at her assigned starting time. The order of play is not relevant. If the player arrives ready to play no more than 5 minutes after the assigned starting time, the player will be assessed the general penalty (loss of the first hole in Match Play and 2 strokes on the first hole in Stroke Play). At 5 minutes after the assigned starting time, the player will be disqualified. For two-player team events, one player must be present at the assigned tee time. (Rule 5.3)

GENERAL AREA The area of the course that covers the entire course except the teeing area and putting green of the hole being played, and all penalty areas and all bunkers. (Rule 2.2)

MAXIMUM OF 14 CLUBS Check the number of clubs in your bag before starting. (Rule 4.1)

AUTOMOTIVE TRANSPORTATION Players may use automotive carts. The competition fee will be the same whether players ride or walk. Spectators are not permitted to ride. Caddies are not permitted in any competition.

PACE OF PLAY The MWGA Pace of Play Policy will be in effect. (Rule 5.6)

OUT-OF-BOUNDS A ball is out of bounds when all of it lies out of bounds. When a ball is OB, the player must take stroke-and-distance relief by adding one penalty stroke and playing a ball from where the previous stroke was made. (Rule 18.2, 14.6)

IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS Such as cart paths, sprinkler systems, buildings, and benches: Without penalty, drop within one club length from the reference point (the nearest point of complete relief), no closer to the hole. (Rule 16)

BUNKERS Loose impediments and movable obstructions may be removed from bunkers with no penalty (Rule 12.2)

ACCIDENTAL MOVEMENT OF A BALL ON A 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 opponent, or another player. (Rule 13.1d(1))
- The moved ball or ball marker must be replaced as provided in 13.1d
- Once a ball is marked, lifted and replaced, the ball "owns" that spot and shall be replaced there if moved accidentally, by wind, water or other natural causes such as gravity. (Rule 9.3 Exception 1)

Note: If it is determined that a player's ball that has not been marked, lifted and replaced on the putting green 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. (Rule 9.3)

YELLOW AND RED PENALTY AREAS: Penalty areas are defined as either red or yellow. This affects the player's relief options. The edge of the penalty area is defined by stakes, lines, or physical features. When both stakes and lines are used, stakes identify the penalty area location, and lines define the edges.

Local Rule B-1: *When stakes or lines are not present, MWGA has defined the edge of the penalty area as the unmown edge of areas with water, cattails, treed areas with dense undergrowth, and all areas including environmentally sensitive areas with dense undergrowth.* Relief may be taken outside the penalty area with a penalty of one stroke, according to the relief options in Rule 17.1d. The rules do not provide relief from interference by an abnormal course condition (immovable obstruction, animal hole or embedded ball) or an unplayable ball, if the ball lies within a penalty area. (Rule 17.3, Rule 19)

Note: Ball may be played as it lies in a penalty area without relief and without penalty. (Rule 17.1b)

TEMPORARY WATER In the general area, drop within one club length of the nearest point of complete relief (the reference point), no closer to the hole, no penalty (Rule 16.1b)

In a bunker the point of maximum available relief may be used as the reference point, no penalty (Rule 16.1c) if no complete relief point in bunker can be found. Or relief may be taken outside the bunker with a penalty of one stroke (Rule 16.1c(2)).

On the putting green, the reference point may be on the putting green or the general area. (Rule 16.1d)

FLOWER BEDS Defined as a No Play Zone with mandatory relief to be taken. (Rule 16.1f)

EMBEDDED BALL In the General Area only, Free relief is allowed if the ball is embedded in its own pitch-mark. The reference point is the spot *right behind* where the ball was embedded and the relief area is one club length in the general area. (Rule 16.3)

SECOND BALL When doubtful of your rights or procedure, you may play out the hole with both the original and at the same time, a second ball in a manner that you believe may be proper under the rules. Announce to your fellow player(s) your decision before the second ball is put into play and which ball you wish to score with. On completion of the round, obtain a ruling from the rules committee even if you scored the same with both balls. A second ball may not be played in Match Play. (Rule 20.1)

PROVISIONAL BALL You may play a provisional ball only if the original ball may be (a) lost outside a penalty area or (b) out of bounds. You must announce in advance that you intend to play a provisional ball. If the original ball is found on the course within the 3-minute search time, the provisional ball **must** be abandoned. (Rule 18.3)

DISCONTINUANCE OF PLAY When play is suspended, if the players are between the play of two holes, they shall not resume play until the committee has ordered a resumption of play. If they are in the process of playing a hole, they shall discontinue play immediately, mark their ball position and return to the clubhouse (or other noted area) and shall not thereafter resume play until the Rules Committee has ordered resumption of play. Penalty for breach of this local rule is disqualification. When play is resumed, the ball must be placed in all instances.

REPORTING OF RESULTS Each player will serve as marker for another player. After each hole, the marker shall check the score with the player. The markers should keep their own scores at the bottom of the card and/or on a mobile device approved for scoring.

In Two-Person Four Ball events (Best Ball), if you decide not to finish the hole and pick up your ball, the proper procedure for recording your score for posting is to count the strokes you have prior to picking up your ball and add the strokes you feel would be necessary to hole out the ball (your most likely score). Example: You are on the green in six strokes and you decide to pick up as you cannot beat your partner's score. You decide it would take two putting strokes to hole out the ball. You would mark an 8X for the hole – X signifies you did not complete the hole.

On completion of the round and prior to turning in all scorecards to the scorer's table, each marker shall review the scores with the player. The player should verify the score hole by hole and settle any questionable scores. When doing "live scoring" on a mobile device, scores MUST also be compared and verified hole-by-hole to the electronic entries. The player or their designee shall expeditiously report to the scorer's table for review and posting. The player MUST verify the electronic entries as the player's official, signed score. The player is solely responsible for reporting a correct score for each hole.

TIES All ties for prizes shall be broken by a **matching** scorecard playoff on the basis of the best score as follows: with one day events, use the best total score of holes 10 through 18, then 13 through 18, then 16 through 18 and, finally, the 18th hole. If there is still a tie, the same procedure is used on holes 1 through 9. Then the highest handicap hole is used. If still tied, the prize will be equally divided. Handicap is factored in if the prize is for net.

For two day competitions, the total score on the 2nd day (gross or net) will be used to break the tie. If still tied, then the tiebreaking procedure is as with one day events **Note: to determine the overall champion at the State Championship, a playoff beginning on hole 18 will be used to break the tie.**

DISTANCE MEASURING DEVICES A player may obtain distance information by use of a distance-measuring device. If, during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance measuring device to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his play (e.g., elevation changes, wind speed, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 4-3. The penalty is two strokes in stroke play or loss of hole in match play for the first offense and disqualification for a subsequent breach.

DRESS CODE Shirts with collars and sleeves are required; however, women may wear collarless shirts with sleeves or sleeveless shirts with collars. Neither tank tops, tee shirts, short shorts, gym shorts, cut-offs, bathing suits nor blue jean pants/shorts are permitted. Players are expected to adhere to the dress code. Those inappropriately attired may be asked to change clothes before being allowed access to the course. The MWGA will adhere to any more specific dress codes required by the host facility.

CELL PHONES If one elects to carry a cell phone during any MWGA competition, as a distance measuring device or otherwise, phones (1) must be on inaudible alert; (2) used away from fellow players to avoid any interference with play; (3) usage must not delay play; nor (4) be used to access information on advice-related matters that were not published prior to the start of the round. The first offense is the general penalty in stroke play or loss of hole in match play and a subsequent offense is disqualification. See Rule 4.3

CLOSE OF COMPETITION The competition shall be deemed to have closed when the prizes have been awarded.