Conditions of Competition & Local Rules

The Rules of Golf as approved by the R&A and USGA govern all play, except where supplemented by local rules.

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, THE GENERAL PENALTY FOR BREACH OF A LOCAL RULE OR CONDITION IS:

MATCH PLAY — LOSS OF HOLE
STROKE PLAY — TWO STROKES

- The starter will distribute the official scorecard at your starting tee. Any local rules listed on a club scorecard should be disregarded.
- When OUT OF BOUNDS is defined by reference to stakes or a fence, out of bounds is defined by the nearest inside points at ground level of the stakes or fence posts. When both stakes and lines are used to indicate out of bounds, the stakes identify out of bounds and the lines define out of bounds. When out of bounds is defined by a line on the ground, the line itself is out of bounds.
- Ball Crossing a Public Road: A ball which crosses a public road defined as out bounds and comes to rest beyond that road is out of bounds, even though it may lie on another part of the course. (Decision 27/20)
- Water Hazards & Lateral Water Hazards: A water hazard is defined by yellow stakes and/or a yellow line. A lateral water hazard is defined by red stakes and/or a red line. When both stakes and a line are used, the stakes identify the hazard and the line defines its margin. In circumstances where the margin of a hazard extends to a boundary, the hazard extends only to that boundary line. When a hazard is only defined on one side, the hazard is deemed to extend infinitely.
- Permanent structures, i.e. bridges and retaining walls, within the margin of water/lateral water hazards are deemed to be INTEGRAL PARTS of the golf course. (No relief without penalty)
- Through the Green, seams of cut turf (not the turf itself) are Ground Under Repair. If a ball lies in or touches the seam or the seam interferes with the area of intended swing, a player may take relief under Rule 25-1.
- French drains are Ground Under Repair under Rule 25-1. Unusual damage due to vehicles (i.e. tire ruts) is deemed to be GUR only when declared as such by an authorized committee member.
- The Embedded Ball Rule (Appendix 1) Through the Green shall be in effect.
- Artificially surfaced roads and paths, including any surrounding curbing (i.e. Belgian Block, railroad ties) are IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS (Rule 24-2). White lined areas which tie into these immovable obstructions are deemed to be part of the obstruction (not ground under repair).
- Stones in Bunkers are deemed to be MOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS (Rule 24-1).
- Wood chips and mulch are loose impediments.
- Wrong putting green; nearest point of relief: For the purpose of Rule 25-3, any wrong putting green includes the apron surrounding the green. (Decision 33-8/33)
- The Local Rule (Decision 14-3/0.5) allowing the use of an electronic device to measure or gauge distance is in effect. See Decisions 14-3/16 and 14-3/18 for restrictions and further clarification.
- Accidental Movement of 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 partner, his opponent, or any of their caddies or equipment. The moved ball or ball-marker must be replaced as provided in Rules 18-2, 18-3 and 20-1.
- Breach of Condition; assessment of General Penalty - Includes, but is not limited to: Dress Code, Caddie/Cart requirement (if applicable), Equipment and Conduct when NOT otherwise addressed by an overriding Rule or policy.
- Discontinuance of Play: All conditions under Rule 6-8 and the corresponding note in Appendix 1 shall be in effect. During a suspension of play due to a dangerous situation, all practice facilities (i.e. Driving Range, Putting Green, etc.) are closed and must be cleared.
- Close of Competition: A competition is deemed to have been closed when the trophy has been presented to the winner or, in the absence of a prize ceremony, when all scores have been approved by the committee. The result of a match is considered to have been “officially announced” when the committee has approved the result as posted on the public scoreboard.

NOTE: The One-Ball condition (Appendix 1) and the Groove and Punch Mark Specifications (Decision 4-1/1) are NOT in effect, unless otherwise noted.
Each year, the New Jersey State Golf Association and its competitors are privileged to be the guests of many fine clubs and courses throughout the state. As guests, all competitors share the responsibility of demonstrating exemplary conduct, sportsmanship, and courtesy at all times. This is a key to ensure that our hosts welcome the NJSGA as guests in the future. Please remember that your conduct is a reflection on the NJSGA, other tournament participants, and your club.

**Some Examples of Inappropriate Conduct Include:**
- Failure to replace divots, repair ball marks, or rake bunkers.
- Failure to comply with posted dress code.
- Inappropriate language and gestures, including the use of profanity and/or verbal abuse of an official, another competitor, or host staff member.
- Throwing of equipment.
- Use of an electronic device for reasons other than those permitted by the Rules (i.e. talking or texting via cell phone).
- Failure to use the locker room for changing of shoes/clothing.

Any player whose conduct is deemed to be inappropriate by the Committee is subject to disqualification and/or rejection from future NJSGA events. Any caddie or the Committee is subject to disqualification and/or rejection from future NJSGA events. Any caddie or

**PROHIBITED DRESS INCLUDES:**
- Jeans/denim, t-shirts, tank tops, cargo shorts/pants or the similar, “short” shorts, sandals, and flip-flops. Mock turtlenecks are also PROHIBITED at most of our tournament venues.
- Shirts MUST be tucked in at all times.
- Soft spikes are mandatory. No shoes with spikes are permitted in the Clubhouse.
- All headwear must be worn forward and must be REMOVED when in the Clubhouse.
- Any clothing deemed inappropriate by the NJSGA or the host club is also PROHIBITED.

**TOURNAMENT ENTRY POLICIES**

NJSGA Championships are open to bona-fide members of NJSGA member clubs and courses who meet all event-specific eligibility requirements (i.e., Handicap Index limit, age, gender, member club/course affiliation). Any player who wishes to participate in a NJSGA event must hold an active and valid USGA Handicap Index through a member NJSGA club/course (public or private) which is in good standing with the NJSGA. Please visit www.njsga.org for more details.

**TOURNAMENT PLAY**

**Prior to traveling to a NJSGA event:**
- Determine your starting time and tee. It is each player’s responsibility to ascertain his/her starting time, and plan his/her route to the tournament venue. Players MUST begin play at the time laid down by the Committee. All tournament information, including pairings and directions, is posted at the NJSGA website (www.njsga.org) seven days before the event.
- Thoroughly read all related tournament information.
- Know the NJSGA Pace of Play Policy, Equipment Policy, and Procedures.

**When you arrive at a NJSGA event:**
- Check in at the registration table.
- Use the locker room for change of shoes/clothing.
- Pay your practice range fee, cart fee, and make any caddie arrangements as quickly as possible so that you are not late for your starting time.
- Report to your starting tee ten (10) minutes prior to your starting time.

**Upon completing your round:**
- Immediately report to the scorer’s table to sign/countersign scorecards and settle any rules questions.

**NJSGA Scorecard and Score Reporting Policy:**
- Each player MUST return his/her scorecard to a NJSGA Official. Failure to return a scorecard or declaring a “No-Card” may result in disqualification from future NJSGA events.
- In individual stroke play events, the NJSGA posts each player’s ESC score as a Type “T” (Tournament) Score to his/her GHIN account after the event.

**REFUND POLICIES**

All claims for a refund must be initiated via telephone at (908) 241-GOLF (4653).

- For refunds PRIOR to the close of entries: Entrant will be refunded his/her entry fee minus a $25.00 service charge (regardless of reason). For team events, a $50.00 service charge applies.

- For refunds AFTER the close of entries: No refund will be issued after the close of entries EXCEPT in the case of unforeseen injury or illness as documented by an official physician’s notice. In this case, entry fee will be refunded minus a $25.00 service charge. For team events, a $50.00 service charge applies.

- No refunds shall be issued in the following cases:
  - After the tournament start date
  - For no-shows
  - Due to weather (unless event postponed)

- For those who enter on-line, refunds will be applied to the entrant’s credit card. For those who enter via paper entry, refunds will be issued by check.

**CELL PHONE/ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY**

The use of cell phones / electronic devices outside the parameters of Decision 14-3/0.5 and the NJSGA Distance Measuring Device policy is PROHIBITED.

**GENERAL COURTESY REMINDER**

All of our host venues go to great lengths to accommodate NJSGA events at the expense of their membership and staff. Please remember to patronize the golf shop, eat lunch at the club, and remember gratuities for the caddie master and locker room attendant. This type of gesture shows that we are appreciative guests.