

**Rules of Golf as approved by United States Golf Association (USGA) govern play. Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule or Conditions of Play is:**

**Match Play – Loss of Hole / Stroke Play – Two Strokes**

1. **Distance Measuring Devices:** While devices that measure yardage only are preferred, those with non-approved features such as weather, slope, wind speed or elevation changes are allowed under two conditions:
  - All non-approved features are Turned Off throughout the round; and;
  - Player notifies his opponent prior to teeing off that he has turned off non-approved features. First infraction: Match Play -- Loss of Hole and Medal Play -- 2 Strokes. Continued use: Disqualification.
  
2. **Accidental Movement of Ball on Putting Surface Only:** Rules 18-2, 18-3, 20-1 Modified. When the player's ball lies on the putting green and is accidentally moved, the ball is replaced to its original position without penalty. The following are examples of accidental movement by the player, caddie, playing partner, opponents or any equipment:
  - Moving the ball during address
  - Dropping a ball/marker/tool/hat/glasses that causes the ball or marker to move
  - Accidentally kicking or disturbing the ball.

**NOTE:** If a ball on the putting green moves as a result of natural causes (i.e., wind, water, gravity, etc.), the ball must be played from its new location. However, a ball-marker that moves due to natural causes must be replaced to its original position.
  
2. **Course Conditions – mud, extreme wetness, poor conditions, & protection of the course:**
  - **Preferred Lies – Winter Rules** -- SF Pro Shop, with input from the SFMC, determines whether playing conditions warrant Winter Rules or modified local rules for the day. A ball in the fairway may be Marked, Lifted, Cleaned, & **REPLACED** within 6 inches of its original landing spot, not nearer the hole. In extreme rain conditions, the committee may approve a club length relief through the green.
  - **Embedded Ball** -- Through the green (all fairways & rough) may be Marked, Lifted, Cleaned & **DROPPED** as close as possible to its original landing spot, not nearer the hole.

- **Aeration Holes** -- Through the green a ball that comes to rest in or on an aeration hole may be Marked & Lifted without penalty and **DROPPED** as close as possible to its original landing spot, not nearer the hole. The ball when dropped must first strike a part of the course through the green. A ball on the putting green may be PLACED at the nearest spot, not nearer the hole.
  - **Sod Seams** – Through the green, sod seams (not sod itself) are deemed ground under repair, and relief is available. If the ball lies in or touches a sod seam or the sod seam interferes with the area of intended swing. All seams within the sodden area are considered the same seam.
  - **Abnormal Conditions (Summer Rules):** – Due to extreme winter weather, relief may be approved by the committee for a ball in the fairway that comes to rest in a winterkill area not marked as ground under repair. The player shall Mark, Lift, Clean and Drop in the nearest relief, not nearer the hole without penalty. No relief is given for stance only in a winterkill area.
4. **Provisional Ball Option ---- Hole 3**  
A player may hit a provisional ball from the 3<sup>rd</sup> tee if his ball may have landed in the hazard surrounding the pump house but not in the water. The player can then make a decision to play the ball in the hazard hitting 2 or play the provisional ball hitting 3. If the original ball is found not to be in the hazard, the original ball must be played.
5. **Yardage Marker/Stakes in the Fairway (100/150/200 Yards)** If a yardage marker cannot be removed and interferes with stance or swing, then the player is given relief by stance and swing completely away from the marker and his ball dropped within one club length from that spot, not nearer the hole.
6. **Handicap Adjustment** -- follow USGA recommended guidelines If the 90% adjusted handicap stroke differential between partners is 8 or greater, each player is adjusted to 80% for certain events (see applicable SFMC events with Round Robins played at 100%/90%)
7. **Discontinuance of Play** -- (Paid entry fees redeemed in Pro Shop credits only.)
- The SFMC Tournament Committee reserves the option to cancel any event impacted by unplayable conditions and an acceptable reschedule date cannot be established.
  - **One-Day stroke play events** that are stopped during play due to weather will be cancelled.
  - **Two-Day events** that are stopped day-2 due to weather will revert to day-1 results. However, if an entire Flight finished day-2 prior to play being cancelled, their two-day results will stand.
8. **Large Rocks Directing Cart Traffic (holes 2, 8, 14 & 16)**
- If a ball comes to rest near a large rock placed to direct golf cart traffic that interferes with the player's stance or swing (not line of sight), relief is given by stance and swing completely away from the rock/boulder and his ball is dropped within one club length from that spot, not nearer the hole. No relief is given from rocks naturally found throughout the course.

## USGA Rule Reminders

- **Ball in a Bunker**
  - **Stones in Bunkers:** No relief -- play ball as it lies.
  - **Footprints in Bunkers:** No relief -- play ball as it lies.  
(Includes animal tracks)
  
- **Stakes**
  - **Water Red & Yellow Stakes:** Relief given – stakes may be removed.
  - **OB White Stakes:** No relief – stakes may not be removed and play the ball as it lies.
  
- **Irrigation Boxes & Posts**
  - If a ball comes to rest near an irrigation box or post that interferes with the player's stance or swing (not line of sight), relief is given by stance and swing completely away from the box or post and his ball is dropped within one club length from that spot, not nearer the hole.