

# Local Rules and Terms of the Competition for 2026 NJ Golf Championships



*The Rules of Golf as approved by the USGA and the R&A govern play. These Local Rules and Terms of the Competition are in effect at all NJ Golf championships and qualifiers. Please refer to each competition's "Player Information Sheet" available on-line prior to the competition and the "Notice to Players" available on the starting tee(s) at each competition. Complete text of the Rules, and Model Local Rules (MLR) may be found in the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf effective January 2023. Local Rules on a club scorecard MUST be disregarded.*

**UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, THE PENALTY FOR BREACH OF A LOCAL RULE IS THE GENERAL PENALTY**

## LOCAL RULES

**Out of Bounds** — Defined by the line between the course-side points of white stakes and fence posts at ground level. Where walls define Out of Bounds the wall is a Boundary Object and a ball is considered Out of Bounds when it comes to rest beyond the wall. A ball which crosses any road defined as Out of Bounds and comes to rest beyond that road is Out of Bounds, even though it may lie on another part of the course.

**Penalty Areas** — When 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 that edge.

**Relief on Opposite Side of Red Penalty Area** — When the edge of a Red Penalty Area coincides with the boundary of the course, opposite side relief is available. MLR B-2.2 is in effect.

**Aeration Holes** — MLR E-4 is in effect.

**Animal Near Ball** — MLR E-13 is in effect.

**White-Lined Areas Tying into Immovable Obstructions** — White-lined areas connected to an Immovable Obstruction are part of a single Abnormal Course Condition when taking relief under Rule 16.1. (MLR F-3.1)

**Ground Under Repair** — Defined by white lines. French drains are ground under repair.

Ground Under Repair may include areas of unusual damage, including areas where vehicle traffic has combined with wet conditions to materially affect the ground surface, but only when so declared by an authorized member of the Committee. When immediately adjacent to an Immovable Obstruction, such an area is treated as a single Abnormal Course Condition when taking relief under Rule 16.1. (MLR F-3.2)

**Landscaped Beds Completely Encircled by Immovable Obstruction** — MLR F-3.3 is in effect.

**Relief from Seams of Cut Turf** — MLR F-7 is in effect.

**Relief from Immovable Obstructions in Penalty Areas** — Free Relief from interference by sprinkler heads or drains located within 1 club-length of the edge of a Penalty Area, is allowed under Rule 16.1. Such relief is available only when the ball lies in the Penalty Area, and the obstruction interferes with the lie of the ball or area of intended swing. MLR F-24 is in effect.

**Relief from Immovable Obstructions near Putting Green** — MLR F-5.2 is in effect. Relief from interference by an immovable obstruction may be taken under Rule 16.1. This Local Rule only applies when both the ball and the obstruction are in part of the General Area cut to fairway height or less.

**Integral Objects** — Include stakes, wires and wrapping only when closely attached to trees; artificial walls and pilings when located in Penalty Areas and Bunkers; and bunker liners.

An exposed bunker liner may be treated as being Ground Under Repair, but interference does not exist if the liner only interferes with the player's stance.

**Turf Nurseries** — All turf nurseries are No Play Zones and treated as Ground Under Repair. Players MUST proceed under Rule 16.1.

**Stakes, Wires and Cables affixed to trees** — These objects attached to trees for support purposes (not the tree itself) are Immovable Obstructions. Relief is available under Rule 16.1.

**Wood Chips and Mulch** — Are Loose Impediments.

**List of Conforming Driver Heads** — MLR G-1 is in effect.

**Clubs: Grooves** — MLR G-2 is in effect for the following championships (including qualifying rounds):

**Women's Open, Amateur & Mid-Amateur Championships;**

**Men's Open, Amateur, Mid-Amateur, Senior Open and Four-Ball Championships.**

**List of Conforming Golf Balls** — MLR G-3 is in effect. *NOTE: The One-Ball Rule is NOT in effect, unless otherwise noted.*

**Use of Motorized Transportation Prohibited** — MLR G-6 is in effect. (This Rule may be modified at certain NJ Golf events as noted below.)

**Pace of Play** — The "Position and Timing" system shall be in effect for all competitions unless otherwise stated. Refer to separate document on-line or at the Starter's Table for complete details.

**Practice** — Prior to and after a round in stroke play, a player may practice on the designated practice areas. Rule 5.2b covering practice in Stroke Play is modified in this way: A player must not practice on the competition course both before and between rounds. MLR I-1.1 is in effect.

**Stopping and Resuming Play** — MLR J-1 is in effect.

An immediate suspension will be signaled by one prolonged airhorn note or siren blast. All other types of suspension will be signaled by three consecutive airhorn notes. Resumption of play will be signaled by two short airhorn notes.

All practice areas are closed while play is suspended for a dangerous situation until the Committee has declared them open. Players who practice while play is suspended for a dangerous situation are subject to disqualification.

**Caddies / Carts** — Each competition has specific policies with respect to Caddies/ Carts. Refer to Player Information Sheet for details. In competitions where motorized transportation (i.e., a golf cart) is permitted, the player and the player's caddie are permitted to use a golf cart subject to the "one-seat" policy. Refer to separate document on-line or at the Starter's Table for complete details. **Spectator carts are NOT permitted.**

**Scorecards** — Upon conclusion of the round, a player must report immediately to the designated **Scoring Area** location to return their physical scorecard to the Committee, or if electronic scoring is permitted, to confirm and attest individual scores. The scorecard (physical or electronic) is considered "returned" when the player has left the **Scoring Area** location.

**Missing Player or Marker Certification** — MLR L.1 is in effect.

## TERMS OF THE COMPETITION

**Scoring Area** — The area designated by the Committee for players to return scorecards in stroke play and to approve match results in match play.

**When Competition is Final** — The competition is final when the trophy has been presented to the winner or, in the absence of a prize ceremony, when the Committee has approved all scores. The result of a match is final when the Committee has approved the result of that match.

**Playoffs and Ties** — Competitors are responsible for keeping informed of the possibility of a playoff due to ties. The method for resolving ties will be posted on site at each event. **Those who are not present at "roll call" will be disqualified from the playoff.**

**Score Posting** — In Stroke Play competitions only, NJ Golf will post each player's score to their GHIN account according to the adjusted Course and Slope Ratings for that day's competition within 24 hours after it concludes.

# Policies and Procedures For 2026 NJ Golf Championships

## TOURNAMENT ENTRY POLICIES

NJ Golf Championships are open to members of NJ Golf member clubs and courses who meet all event-specific eligibility requirements (i.e., USGA Handicap Index®, age, gender, club/course affiliation). Except for the Open, Women's Open and Senior Open Championships (which maintain separate eligibility standards for Golf Professionals), a player who wishes to participate in a NJ Golf event must possess unquestionable Amateur Status and appear on the official GHIN Handicap® roster at a NJ Golf member club/course at the time of entry through the conclusion of the event. Visit [www.njgolf.org](http://www.njgolf.org) for more details.

## STANDARDS OF PLAYER CONDUCT (RULE 1.2)

It is the shared privilege of NJ Golf and tournament players to be welcomed by our fine clubs and courses for tournament play. As guests, players always share the responsibility of demonstrating exemplary conduct, sportsmanship, and courtesy. This is key to ensuring that our hosts welcome us again. Further, players are reminded that the game of golf is centered around integrity and proper etiquette. Behavior contrary to this is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Players and their caddies must comply with the following:

- ◆ Exercise great care for the golf course - replace divots, repair ball marks, and rake bunkers; including not entering No Play Zones
- ◆ Abide by the club's posted safety procedures
- ◆ Abide by the host club's cell phone / electronic device policy
- ◆ Abide by the host club's policy on use of any practice facilities
- ◆ Abide by the host club's cart policy at all times (including cart path only restrictions)
- ◆ Abide by the posted dress code, including use of the locker rooms for change of shoes and clothing

**NJ Golf Code of Conduct Policy (see Rules 1.2b and Committee Procedure 5I)** - Penalties will be administered by the Rules/Player Conduct Committee.\*

Acts which are likely to result in penalty include (but are not limited to) the following:

- ◆ Failure to comply with any of the above Standards of Player Conduct
- ◆ Failure to comply with electronic scoring
- ◆ Use of profanity, either in frustration or directed toward another individual
- ◆ Inappropriate, derogatory, or abusive language/gestures whether directed toward the host club, host club staff member, or a NJ Golf Committee / Staff Member or any other person on the course
- ◆ Disruptive or distracting behavior, and/or any physical threat to any person; including throwing of equipment
- ◆ Deliberately causing damage to the golf course or objects on the property (including tee-markers)
- ◆ Other unbecoming or inappropriate conduct as determined by NJ Golf; including controlled substance/alcohol abuse and/or impaired behavior

### PENALTY STRUCTURE FOR BREACH OF CODE OF CONDUCT:

First breach – Warning  
Second breach – General Penalty  
Third breach – Disqualification  
**Serious Misconduct** – Disqualification and subject to future suspension

\*Breaches will carry over for multi-round events

## DRESS CODE

The dress code, as established by both NJ Golf and the host club, applies to all players and caddies.

- ◆ Prohibited dress includes jeans/denim, t-shirts, tank tops, cargo shorts/pants, sandals, and flip-flops
- ◆ Soft spikes are mandatory
- ◆ Any clothing deemed inappropriate by NJ Golf or the host club is also PROHIBITED

## REFUND POLICIES

**All requests for refund must be made by sending an email to [tournaments@njgolf.org](mailto:tournaments@njgolf.org) or by calling 908-241-GOLF.**

### 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 player may be substituted only with prior approval by NJ Golf, otherwise 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 injury or sudden illness as supported by official documentation (i.e., physician's note). In this case, entry fee will be refunded minus the service charge described above.

### No refunds shall be issued in the following cases:

- ◆ After the tournament start date
- ◆ For withdrawal due to reasons other than illness/injury
- ◆ For no-shows
- ◆ Due to weather (unless event postponed)

Full refunds will be issued to an entrant that is not eligible to participate prior to any golf being played in an event.

**All refunds will be applied to the entrant's credit card**

