



Tour Rules & Regulations

USGA Rule books will always be available at the registration table free of charge

Please note: Disqualification penalties will be double-par on the hole the penalty occurred for 9-hole players.

All play is governed by the USGA Rules of Golf and its Decisions and, where applicable, by the following Local Rules, Conditions, and Definitions, subject to changes or amendments by the Red Hills and Pink Links Junior Golf Rules Committee. Appendix I refers to the Appendix of Local Rules and Conditions of the Competition in the USGA Rules of Golf Book.

Golf is played, for the most part, without the supervision of a referee or umpire. The game relies on the integrity of the individual to show consideration for other players and to abide by the Rules. All players should conduct themselves in a disciplined manner, demonstrating courtesy and sportsmanship at all times, irrespective of how competitive they may be. This is the spirit of the game of golf.

If a player is unsure about a ruling or how to proceed when a rules question arises, the player should consult with a tour official as soon as possible or refer to the most current USGA Rules of Golf and its Decisions.

(1) **Time of Starting/Late to Tee:** A player must show up on time, ready to play, at his assigned tee time. You must start at (and not before or after) your starting time.

Penalty for Breach of Rule: Disqualification, unless:

- You arrive at starting point, ready to play, no more than five minutes late: **two strokes applied to your first hole.**
- You start no more than five minutes early: **two strokes applied to your first hole.**
- Committee decides that exceptional circumstances prevented you from starting on time: There is no breach of this Rule and no penalty.

(2) **Double Par Rule:** As a Junior Golf Scoreboard event, there is no score limit for 36-hole players. For players playing 9 holes per day, once you hit a shot equal to double the par of the hole, you must pick your ball up and record that score.

(3) **Distance Measuring Device:** Players are permitted to use rangefinders that measure distance ONLY; rangefinders that measure slope **MUST** have slope turned off. **Penalty for use of slope rangefinders: Disqualification**

(4) **Caddie Policy:** All players eight (8) years old and younger **MUST** be accompanied by a caddie 13 years or older. Boys 13 years of age and under, and all Girls are permitted to have caddies to help them play their best. It is vital for caddies not to over coach and to have their player hit each shot within a reasonable amount of time, and not to be disruptive to any player or caddie in the group.

• **IMPORTANT:** There are some restrictions on Caddies. Caddies are **NOT** permitted on putting greens for Boys 12-13 divisions. Caddies are not permitted for Boys 14 and older. Please read complete Caddie Policy and Age Groups and Yardages for additional information.

• If a caddie becomes disruptive he/she will be warned of the problem. If the problem continues the caddie will be dismissed as a caddie from that event and will not be allowed to caddie in any other events for the remainder of the year. The conduct of caddies will be monitored by Red Hills and Pink Links Junior Golf officials and by other caddies and players in the group. The Tournament Director will have the final decision on any incident that occurs.

(5) **Pace of Play:** Each player must play without undue delay, which is defined as taking no more than 45 seconds to play a shot. Those players who are first to play from a given area (tee, fairway, green, etc.) will have 10 extra seconds to play their shot. Caddies are asked to please refrain from over-coaching the player. It is the caddie's duty to help the player hit each shot within a reasonable period of time.

• A group is deemed to be out of position on the golf course when they are over time par. Time par is determined by each hole taking an average of 15 minutes to complete a hole and/or by staying up with the group in front. When it is determined that a group is out of position on the golf course, the group will be warned and asked to speed up play. If the group continues to fall behind, each member of the group will be timed. If a player takes more than the allotted time, he or she may be subject to a penalty.

First offense: warning; Subsequent offenses: two stroke penalty

• The 45-second rule is in place to assure playing without "undue delay" and to prevent over coaching and slow play.

(6) **Out of Bounds:** Where white stakes or fence posts are used, the nearest inside points at ground level define out of bounds. When out of bounds is defined by a white line on the ground, the line itself is out of bounds. A ball coming to rest on or crossing any public road is considered out of bounds, even if it comes to rest on another part of the golf course.

- **Model Local Rule E-5 is NOT in effect. Out of Bounds MUST be played as Stroke and Distance, ALWAYS.**

(7) **Penalty Areas:** Penalty areas are one of the five defined areas of the course and can be marked as either RED or YELLOW. When your ball lies in a penalty area, you can play it as it lies or take relief outside the penalty area for one penalty stroke. For either red or yellow penalty areas, you can play from where your last stroke was made (stroke and distance) or take back-on-the-line relief by going back as far as you'd like on the line between the hole and where your ball last

crossed the edge of the penalty area. In a red penalty area, you have one additional relief option, which is to take lateral relief within two club-lengths of where your ball crossed into the penalty area.

(8) **Ball Drops:** A "DROP ZONE" is an area enclosed by a white line having the words "DROP ZONE" printed inside it or on a sign adjacent to the line. A "ball drop" is not ground under repair. The line itself is in the "DROP ZONE."

(9) **Ground Under Repair:** Enclosed white lined areas define ground under repair. The white lines are considered in ground under repair. Other areas of ground under repair, even though not so marked include:

- French drains (trenches filled with stones or like)
- Fire ant beds and mounds

(10) **Flower Beds Identified by Blue Stakes:** To be treated as Ground Under Repair. Relief is mandatory.

(11) **Sod Seams (for Lie of Ball Only):** To be treated as an embedded ball through the green. All seams in a given area are deemed to be the same seam. Player may take full relief unless in a penalty area.

(12) **Wood Chips and Mulch:** Wood chips and mulch are loose impediments.

(13) **Embedded Ball:** The "Embedded Ball Rule" is in effect through the green. If your ball breaks the surface of the ground and comes to rest in its own pitch mark, you are entitled to lift, clean, and replace the ball before taking your relief (nearest spot +1 club), but that altering or "fixing" the resulting hole or turf in any way (esp. by stepping on it) is a penalty in itself of two strokes.

(14) **Signals for Suspension and Resumption of Play:** If play is suspended by one long siren or horn blast or verbal direction by the Tour Director, Tour staff or any host course staff person, the player must immediately discontinue play, mark his/her ball position, and look for shelter. All practice areas are closed during suspension for a dangerous situation until the Tour Director has declared them open for use.

Penalty for breach of this rule is disqualification

• It is the player's responsibility to be ready when play resumes that will be signaled by two short siren blasts repeated or verbal direction. All players failing to start play on time after a delay will be assessed a score of double par on that and any subsequent hole(s) on which their group has already begun play. A player may not join a group during play of the hole; but must join them on the next tee. **A player may discontinue play and seek shelter SOLELY AT HIS DISCRETION if he/she believes there is dangerous weather (lightning, tornado, hurricane, etc.) regardless of whether any tournament suspension siren has been heard. The player must report to the Tour Director as soon as practical. Bad weather (rain, wind, etc.) itself is not a good reason for discontinuing play.**

• The Rules Committee makes all decisions regarding weather delays and/or cancellations on site the day of the event. The intention is to play the event on its scheduled day, and everything possible will be done in order to do so. See the website for Weather/Darkness Policy.

(15) **Electronic Devices:** Cell phones, headphones, pagers and the like may not be used during play.

First offense: warning; second offense: disqualification.

EXCEPTION: Cell phones may only be used to alert rangers or seek rules advice from Tournament Committee (below).

(16) **Tobacco & Alcohol:** Tobacco and alcohol use by caddies (and players) is not permitted during the event.

First offense: Warning, Second offense: Disqualification

(17) **Spectator Policy:** Spectators may rent a golf cart at the discretion of the golf course but must remain on the cart path at all times. All spectators walking must remain on the cart path or in the rough at all times. Spectators may not give players advice during the round. Spectators should refrain from use of any electronic devices (cell phones, pagers, etc.) on the course.

First offense: warning; Second offense: Immediate removal of the spectator from the golf course.

(18) **Code of Conduct (Caddie and Player):** Violations of the code of conduct include: abusive language, club throwing, cheating, disrespect of volunteers or officials, abuse to the golf course or the facilities, littering, or any other conduct unbecoming of a player.

First offense: warning; Second offense: disqualification. Repeated violation may lead to rejection of future entries.

(19) **Dress Code:** Players and caddies must adhere to the following dress code: Only acceptable golf attire is permitted. Players are prohibited from wearing shoes with metal spikes, gym or basketball shorts, short shorts, swimwear, denim of any kind, t-shirts, or tank tops. Players or caddies not appropriately attired will not be permitted to participate.

(20) **Result of the Competition:** When all scorecards have been signed, attested, collected and approved by the Red Hills and Pink Links Junior Golf Committee, the result of the competition is deemed to have been officially announced.



COMMITTEE