

**Committee Pace of Play Policy:** See Rule 5.6b(3). See NEPGA Tournament Rules and Regulations for pace of play policy and penalties.

**Scoring Area, Returning of Scorecard:**

**Scoring Area** may include but is not limited to tents or rooms. For the purpose of applying Rule 3.3b(2), a player's *scorecard* has been returned to the *Committee* when the player has exited the defined scoring area with both feet, unless the player, prior to leaving, verbally informs the Scoring Official, and it is acknowledged, of their intention to leave the scoring area and immediately return.

**Application of the Exception to Rule 3.3b(3) Following the Cut:** The cut for any New England PGA Championship is official when the following round's pairings have been approved and published by the *Committee*. Once the field has been reduced, and the pairings have been approved and published, no additions to the field will be made. If a player's breach of Rule 3.3b(3) is discovered after the cut is official and the addition of penalty strokes, from a round prior to the cut, results in the player's score being higher than the cut score, the player will be withdrawn from the field and will be considered to have missed the cut. Any such player is ineligible for any "made the cut" prize money, points, or other benefits.

**Pro-Am Competition – Scorecard:** The professional player is the *marker* and scoring is according to Rule 23.2. The *scorecard* must be signed by the professional player and attested by one of the amateur *partners*.

**Missing Player or Marker Certification—MLR L-1:** Rule 3.3b(2) is modified in this way: If a player returns a *scorecard* without the hole scores being certified either by the player, the *marker*, or both, the player gets the **general penalty (two penalty strokes)**. The penalty applies to the last hole of the player's *round*.

**When the Result of the Competition is Final:**

**Stroke Play:** Unless otherwise stated, the result of the competition is final when all scores have been approved by the *Committee*. In the event of a play-off, the result of the competition is final when the play-off scores have been approved by the *Committee*.

**Match Play:** Unless otherwise stated, the result of the match is final when the result has been reported to a member of the *Committee*.

New England PGA Rules Committee



PGA

New England Section

**2024 HARD CARD** as of 3/26/2024

Play is governed by the Rules of Golf effective January 2023, and where applicable, by the following Local Rules and Terms of the Competition. Committee Procedures refers to the Committee Procedures section in the current *Official Guide to the Rules of Golf*. "MLR" refers to the Model Local Rules in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures. The *Committee* refers to the New England PGA Rules Committee. **Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule is the general penalty.**

**Out of Bounds and Course Boundaries:** *Out of bounds* is defined by the line between the *course-side* points at ground level of white stakes and fence posts, and in any other manner as described in the applicable event's "Notice to Players."

**Note:** A ball coming to rest on or beyond a public road is *out of bounds*, even if it comes to rest on another part of the course that is in bounds for other holes, unless otherwise stated on the "Notice to Players."

**Dropping Zones:** When the use of a dropping zone is permitted on the applicable "Notice to Players" for a particular competition *round*, the provisions in MLR E-1 apply. The ball must be dropped in and come to rest in the dropping zone.

**Penalty Areas:** Red *penalty areas* with an opposite side relief option will be indicated on the applicable "Notice to Players." MLR B-2.1.

**Note:** When the edge of a red *penalty area* coincides with the boundary of the course, Model Local Rule B-2.2 is in effect and modifies the second paragraph of Model Local Rule B-2.1.

**Abnormal Course Conditions and Integral Objects**

**Ground Under Repair:**

**Any area encircled by a white line**, including gallery crosswalks (except dropping zones or *out of bounds*).

**Newly trenched areas**, including grass-covered cables.

**French drains**, which are trenches filled with rocks or stones.

**Aeration holes** in *General Area* or on *Putting Green*, **but** interference does not exist if the aeration hole only interferes with the player's stance or, on the *putting green*, on the player's *line of play* – MLR E-4.

**A hole made by a movable obstruction** (stakes, signs, chairs or the like) may be treated as *ground under repair* by the *Committee*. **But** interference does not exist if the hole only interferes with the player's stance.

In the *general area*, if a player's ball lies in or touches a **seam of cut turf** or a seam interferes with the player's area of intended swing, the player may take relief under Rule 16.1b. **But** interference does not exist if the seam only interferes with the player's *stance*. **Note:** All seams within the area of cut turf are treated as the same seam in taking relief. This means that if a player has interference from any seam after *dropping* the ball, the player must proceed as required under Rule 14.3c (2) even when the ball is within one club-length of the reference point - MLR F-7.

### **Immovable Obstructions:**

**All roads and paths on the course**, even if not artificially surfaced, are treated as *immovable obstructions* from which free relief is allowed under Rule 16.1.

**White lined areas of ground under repair tying into immovable obstructions** are treated as a single *abnormal course condition* when taking relief under Rule 16.1.

**Roads or paths surfaced with shells, wood chips or mulch** are *immovable obstructions*. The individual pieces of shells, wood chips or mulch are *loose impediments*.

**Landscaped or garden areas (flower beds, shrubbery or the like) completely encircled by an immovable obstruction** are part of the *obstruction*.

**Railroad ties, curbing** or other similar artificial edges adjoining cart paths are part of the same *obstruction*.

**Where the non-course side edge of a road or path defines out of bounds**, the road or path is an *obstruction*.

**Stakes, ropes, wires, or other objects** supporting trees or tree limbs, provided they are not closely attached, are *immovable obstructions*. The tree or tree limb is not part of the *obstruction*.

**Secured mats and plastic cable ramps** covering cables.

**Immovable Obstructions Close to Putting Greens—MLR F-5.1:** For a ball in the general area, relief under this Local Rule is allowed only when both the ball and the *immovable obstruction* lie in an area cut to fairway height or less. The player may take relief under Rule 16.1b if an *immovable obstruction* is on the line of play, **and** is within two *club-lengths* of the *putting green*, **and** is within two *club-lengths* of the ball. **Exception:** there is no relief under this Local Rule if the player chooses a *line of play* that is clearly unreasonable.

### **Integral Objects:**

**Bunker Liners.** However, the Committee may treat an exposed liner as ground under repair under Rule 16.1. But interference does not exist if the liner only interferes with the player's *stance*.

**Artificial retaining walls** and/or pilings when located in *penalty areas*, or in or adjacent to *bunkers*.

**Wires, cables, wrappings, signs and lightning rods** closely attached to trees or objects defining *out of bounds*.

**Temporary Immovable Obstructions— Model Local Rule F-23** in Committee Procedures is in effect. Unless otherwise noted in the Notice to Players, this Local Rule applies to any *Immovable Obstruction* installed for the competition.

**Permanent Elevated Power Lines or Cables—MLR E-11:** If it is known or virtually certain that a player's ball hit a permanent elevated power line that is **in bounds**, the player must replay the *stroke* by playing the original ball or another ball from the spot where that *stroke* was made (see Rule 14.6).

If the player replays the stroke but does so from a wrong place, they get the **general penalty** under Rule 14.7. If the player does not replay the *stroke*, they get the **general penalty** and the *stroke* counts, but the player has not played from a wrong place.

### **Restrictions on Use of Specific Equipment**

**List of Conforming Driver Heads—MLR G-1:** Any driver the player uses to make a *stroke* must have a clubhead, identified by model and loft, which is on the current List of Conforming Driver Heads issued by the USGA.

**Penalty for Making a Stroke with a Club in Breach of this Local Rule: Disqualification.** There is no penalty under this Local Rule for carrying, but not making a *stroke* with a driver that is not on the List of Conforming Driver Heads (See Model Local Rule G-1 in Committee Procedures).

**Groove and Punch Mark Specifications—MLR G-2:** In making a *stroke*, the player must use clubs that conform to the groove and punch mark specifications in the *Equipment Rules* that took effect on 1 January 2010. Ping Eye 2 irons manufactured before 31 March 1990 with a groove spacing to groove width ratio of 2.3 to 1 are allowed for play under the Rules of Golf, even when this Local Rule is in effect (See Model Local Rule G-2 in Committee Procedures).

**Penalty for making a Stroke with a Club in Breach of this Local Rule: Disqualification.** There is no penalty under this Local Rule for carrying, but not making a *stroke* with a club which does not conform to these groove and punch mark specifications.

**List of Conforming Golf Balls—MLR G-3:** Any ball used in making a *stroke* must be on the current List of Conforming Golf Balls issued by the USGA. This list is regularly updated and can be found at [www.usga.org](http://www.usga.org).

**Penalty for Making a Stroke at a Ball Not on Current List in Breach of this Local Rule: Disqualification.**

**Restrictions on Practice Before or Between Rounds in Stroke Play—MLR I-1.2:** Rule 5.2b is modified in this way: A player must not practice on the competition *course* before or between *rounds*.

**Penalty for first breach: General Penalty** (applied to the player's first hole).  
**Penalty for second breach: Disqualification.**

**Methods for Stopping and Resuming Play—MLR J-1:** A suspension of play for a dangerous situation will be signaled by one prolonged note of a siren or horn. All other suspensions will be signaled by three consecutive notes of a siren or horn. In either case, resumption of play will be signaled by two short notes of a siren or horn. See Rule 5.7b.

**Note:** All practice areas are closed during an immediate suspension for a dangerous situation until the *Committee* has declared them open. Players who practice on closed practice areas will be asked to stop practicing. Failure to stop practicing can result in disqualification.

**Penalty for breach of Rule 5.7b: Disqualification.**

**Removal of Temporary Water on the Putting Green—MLR J-2:** If a player's ball lies on the *putting green* and there is interference by *temporary water* on the *putting green*:

- The player may take free relief under Rule 16-1d **or**
- The Committee may squeegee the *line of play*. Such squeegeeing should be done across the *line of play* and extend a reasonable distance beyond the *hole* (that is at least one roller length) and must only be carried out by individuals designated by the *Committee*. **Note:** The *Committee* may squeegee the *putting green* at any time.