



# 2025 Rules Volunteer Training

Session 1

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**Josh Coates**  
Director



**Kent Holubar**  
Assistant Director



**Amanda Braun**  
Assistant Director



**Amanda Kelley**  
Manager



**Caleb McCall**  
Manager



# Agenda

- General Overview
- 2025 Hard Card
- Notice to Player (NTP)
- New Hole Location Look



# Selection Process for Events

- Officials are selected based on the region the tournament is located
  - Number of officials is based on expected field size
- If we feel we need to make any adjustments to the number of rules officials, we will communicate that information to you
  - Ex: 2024 Intercollegiate



# Invited Championships

- For some championships, officials will be invited to help at these events based on their knowledge, experience, and positive representation of the VSGA.
- These championships include:
  - Amateur
  - State Open
  - Women's Amateur
  - Women's Open
  - Senior Amateur
  - Senior Open
  - Senior Women's & Super Senior Women's Amateur



# New Volunteer Shadowing

- We would like any new VSGA rules officials to shadow for their first event(s)
  - You will ride along with an official who has been with the VSGA for multiple events. We will let you know who that official is prior to the event
  - We will let you shadow more than one event if needed until you feel comfortable going around by yourself
- Ask questions!





# Communication

- Event confirmation has been sent out to you
- Attend the tournaments you are signed up for!
  - Let us know ASAP if you are unable to attend
- Week before the event confirmation email
  - Reach out if your plans have changed
  - Multi-day championships
    - Days you are scheduled will be communicated to you
- Hotel reservations will be communicated earlier



# Communication

- The Staff Member in Charge (SMIC) will be sending out rules assignments/days scheduled 2-3 days before the event
- The SMIC will be sending the day before the first-round email
  - Rules assignments reminders
  - Notice to Player (NTP) and hole location sheet
  - Important information to know for event (potential weather, areas of potential concern, lunch, etc.)
- Familiarize yourself with the location of the event
  - Google Maps etc.



111<sup>th</sup> VSGA AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP  
BELLE HAVEN COUNTRY CLUB  
JUNE 24-28, 2024

RULES OFFICIAL SCHEDULE

Staff Members In Charge: Amanda Braun (804) 928-7926; Josh Coates (804) 304-9132

JUNE 24 (STROKE PLAY QUALIFYING)

Volunteer Coordinator: Cody Feldman

Hole #1 Starter (8:00/12:30): Brian Maloney  
Hole #10 Starter (8:00/12:30): Bert Wilson

Scoring: Caleb McCall & Cody Feldman

Zone 1 (#1, 2, 3): Taylor Monfort  
Zone 2 (#4, 5, 6): Andy Shulman  
Zone 3 (#7, 8, 9): Bill Preston  
Zone 4 (#10, 11, 12): John Vogel  
Zone 5 (#13, 14, 15): Bruce Nordstrom  
Zone 6 (#16, 17, 18): Ed Cochrane  
Front Nine Rover: Ken Bedford  
Back Nine Rover: Charles Rolan

Brian and Bert will help with relief/roving when finished with starting each wave.

JUNE 25 (STROKE PLAY QUALIFYING)

Volunteer Coordinator: Cody Feldman

Hole #1 Starter (8:00/12:30): Brian Maloney  
Hole #10 Starter (8:00/12:30): Bert Wilson

Scoring: Caleb McCall & Cody Feldman

Zone 1 (#1, 2, 3): Ed Cochrane  
Zone 2 (#4, 5, 6): Merle Snyder  
Zone 3 (#7, 8, 9): Bruce Nordstrom  
Zone 4 (#10, 11, 12): Andy Shulman  
Zone 5 (#13, 14, 15): Bill Preston  
Zone 6 (#16, 17, 18): Taylor Monfort  
Front Nine Rover: John Vogel  
Back Nine Rover: Ken Bedford  
General Rover: Charles Rolan

Brian and Bert will help with relief/roving when finished with starting each wave.



VSGA Amateur/State Open Qualifier  
Riverfront GC  
June 4, 2024  
Rules Official Assignments

Staff Member-In-Charge: Amanda Braun (804) 928-7926

Scoring: Amanda Braun & Quint Dingleline

On-Course Officials

Hole #1 Starter & General Rover: Karl Quinn

7:00 – 7:20 a.m. Groups: Garrett McGehee  
7:30 – 7:40 a.m. Groups: Les Flora  
7:50 – 8:10 a.m. Groups: Richard Schreiner  
8:25 – 8:35 a.m. Groups: Rick Van Orden  
8:45 – 9:05 a.m. Groups: Jeff Minnix & Carlisle Wroton  
9:15 – 9:25 a.m. Groups: Jim Gallagher



# Golf Genius Communication

- We may find it necessary to send out text messages to all rules officials for important updates
  - Weather
  - Important updates to the competition
  - Trouble with radios
- Don't hit STOP

Today 9:57 AM

Hello Larry,

This is a reminder that your tee time on Wednesday for the 2017 Four ball at Hollands Golf Club - East Course is 12:40 PM. Other players in your group are Ned Stark, Michael Day, David Ortiz.

To stop receiving text messages, reply STOP to this message.

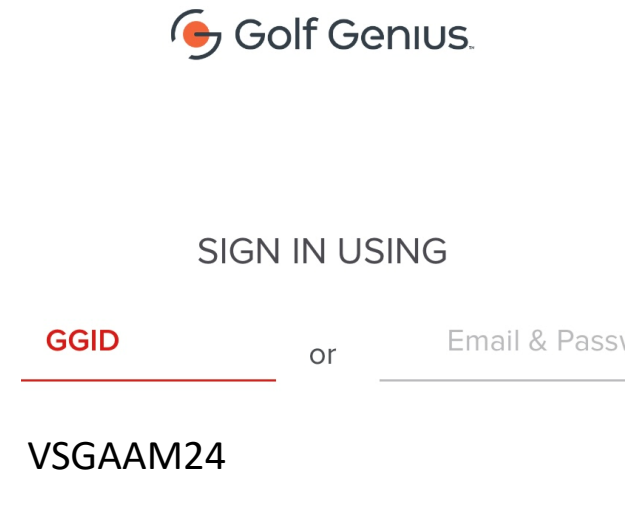
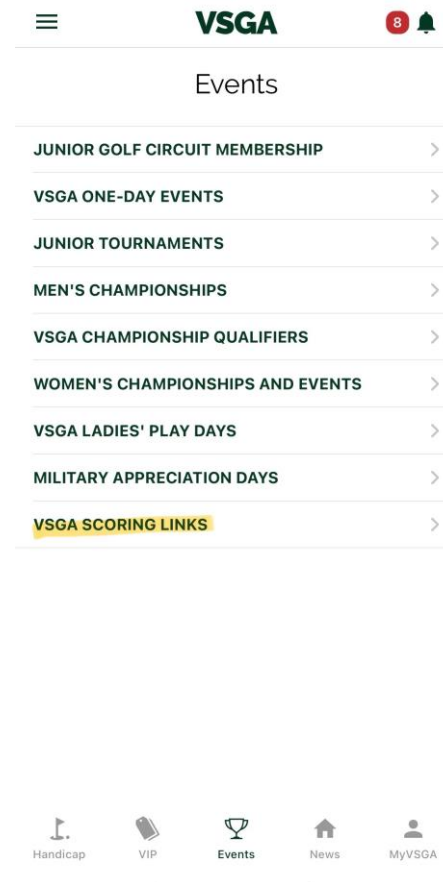
STOP

You have successfully been unsubscribed. You will not receive any more messages from this number. Reply START to resubscribe.



# How Can I Access Event Information?

- My VSGA App
- VSGA website
- GGID (Golf Genius)





# Uniform/Attire





# Items for Refereeing Bag

- Earpiece (Motorola SL300)
- The *Full Rules of Golf* and or *Official Guide* or the USGA Rules App on phone
- Coin, tees
- Umbrella and rain gear (if needed)
- Towel
- Sunscreen
- Snacks and water
- VSGA name badge
- Watch, stopwatch, or phone for these functions
- Binoculars





# Arrival to Event

- Find the cart with your name on it
  - Rules official packet
    - Raguzzi
    - Assignments
    - NTP
    - Hard Card
  - Radio
  - Wheel cover (don't take home!)
  - Air horn
- Introduce yourself
- If reasonable, ride the golf course
  - Check the areas where you are assigned





# Prior to the Round

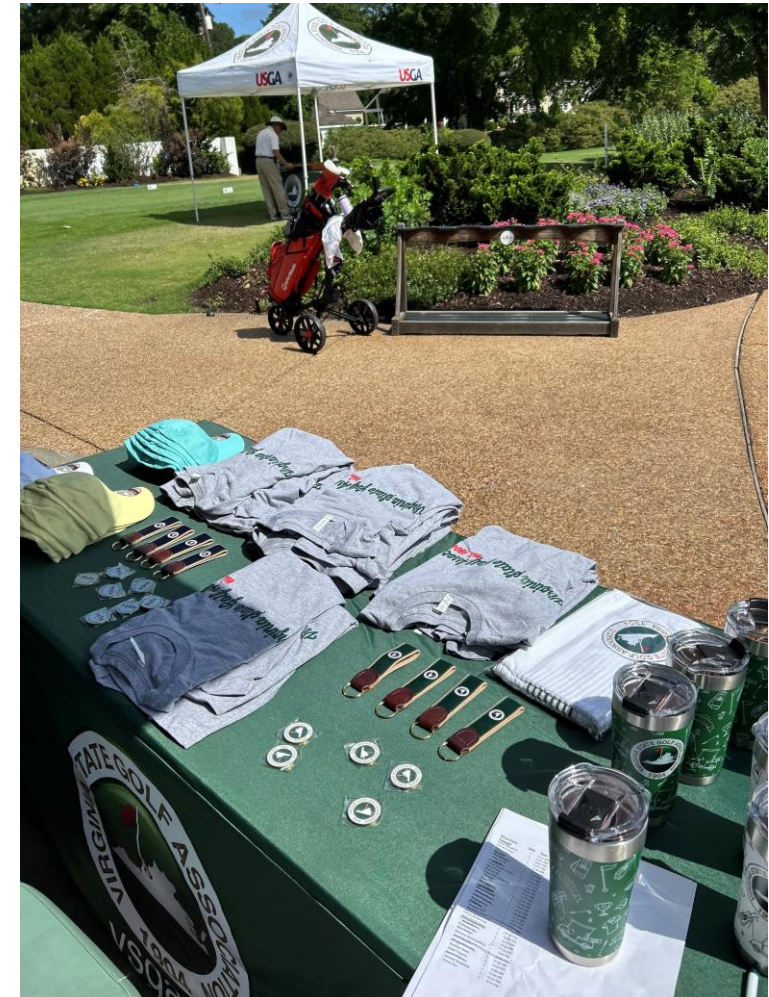
- Review your assignments
  - Bring up questions you have to the SMIC
- Review any specific rules for the competition
  - Model local rules
  - Format
  - Pace of play
- Make sure to test your radio





# Registration/Swag

- Assist with player registration
  - Championships
  - Player checks in
  - Choice of one swag item
- VSGA tablecloth
- Alpha sheet
- Swag items nicely laid out





# Conduct

- Representation of the VSGA
- Interactions
  - Club staff and members
  - Players
  - Spectators/parents/coaches
- Your interactions leave a lasting impact
- Any issues at the event should be brought to the attention of the SMIC





# Performance Do's

- **A good rules official should:**

- Arrive to their assignment well in advance (approximately 20-30 minutes early) and note that early groups may play well under the expected time. Allow for additional time prior to assignment as needed (parking, traffic, etc.)
- Do their homework prior to the assignment
- Have the necessary supplies for their assignment
- Be discreetly available ("visibly invisible") and aware of your surroundings
- Remove sunglasses when interacting with players
- Interact with players in a professional, friendly, and concise manner
- Post-round, communicate with person working their hole(s) assignment the next day about anything noteworthy



# Performance Don'ts

- **A good rules official should NOT:**
  - Distract play by driving a cart, speaking on the radio, having loud conversations near play, etc
  - Be positioned on or close to an extension of the line of play behind the player or on the other side of the hole
  - Go onto the putting green or enter a bunker, unless necessary for a ruling or otherwise assist players
    - For example, a player requests assistance after a ball embedded in the side of the hole
  - Mark and lift a ball for player or otherwise touch a ball in play
  - Touch, handle, or carry player equipment, except to return a lost item to the player (like a club or rangefinder)
  - Move, attend, or replace the flagstick
  - Initiate casual conversation with players
  - Escalate tension when interacting with players
  - Run or jog on course
  - And of course, no naps!





# Breaks

- Days are long and typically hot
- Make sure to find spots in the shade or sun if it's cold!
- Drink plenty of water
  - Rovers will be asked to ride around with water coolers for players
- On tournament days lunch is provided
- Make sure to radio that you are grabbing lunch
  - If possible, have another official cover area
  - Please limit how long your lunch break is (to-go box/grab-n-go options)
  - If the weather is a bit extreme that day (cold, extreme heat, rain) feel free to eat your lunch inside



# Questions





# Hard Card

- Rules officials will continue to get a physical copy for each event
- For players a QR code will be added to each NTP





# Notice To Player

## **NOTICE TO PLAYERS**

*(This information supplements the Championship entry and the Standard Local Rules and Terms of Competition for 2025 VSGA Championships)*

### **Tee Markers:**

All play will be from the **VSGA white** tee markers.

### **Format:**

54-hole, stroke play competition. Each day will be two, nine-hole stipulated rounds. The field will be cut to the low 45 players and ties following round two.

### **Faint Lines:**

Any faint paint lines have no status for this championship.

### **Caddies:**

Players may have a caddie, but he/she must meet the same age requirements for the tournament as the player.

### **Transportation:**

Model Local Rule G-6 is in effect. During a round, a player or caddie must not ride on any form of motorized transportation except as authorized by the Committee. The player gets the general penalty for each hole during which there is a breach of this Local Rule. If the breach occurs between the play of two holes, it applies to the next hole.

### **Out of Bounds:**

Out of bounds is defined by the line between the course-side points, at ground level, of white stakes and fence posts, the inside edge of paved public roads and white lines on the ground. When white lines are present, they define the out of bounds and white stakes identify the out of bounds.

### **Newly Sodded Areas:**

All newly sodded areas are deemed ground under repair even if they are not marked with white paint. If you have questions, consult a rules official or play two balls.

### **Scorecards/Scoring Area:**

The digital scorecard used via the app is the unofficial scorecard. The official scorecard is the paper scorecard which needs to be verified in the scoring area. The scoring area is located in a designated room inside the clubhouse.

### **Rules Committee:**

Final decisions on any disputed points will be made by the Rules Committee, which includes the following members: Kent Holubar, Josh Coates, Caleb McCall, Cody Feldman, Bob Horner, Bruce Townsend, Cabell Moore, Dick Posey, John Barr, and John Vogel. If a rules official cannot be located, please call Kent Holubar at (804) 937-8719.

### **VSGA Local Rules and Terms of the Competition:**

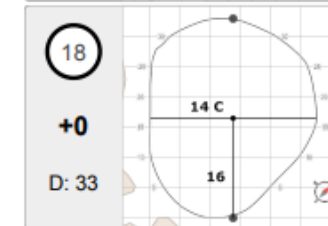
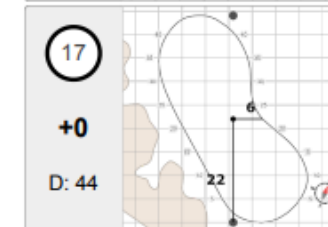
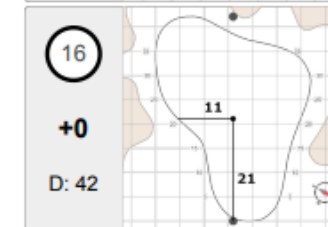
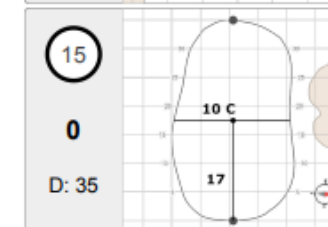
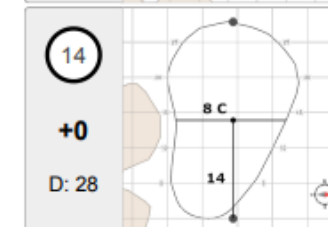
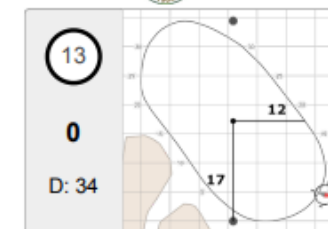
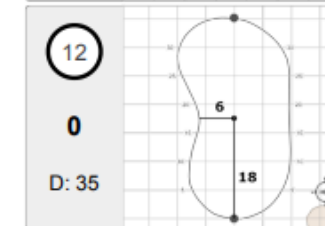
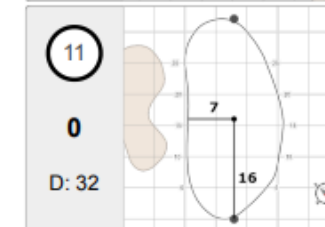
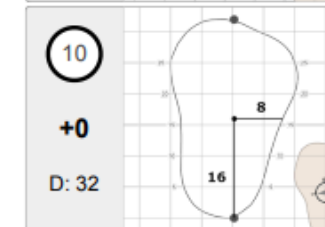
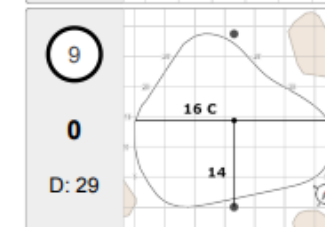
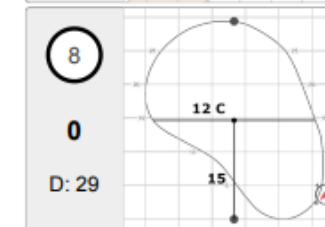
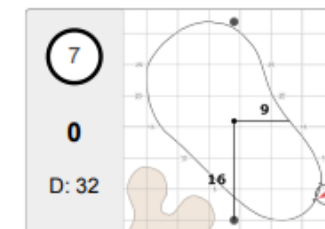
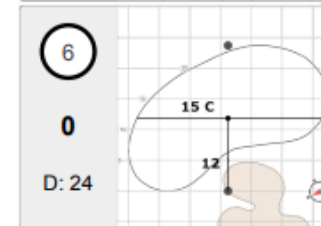
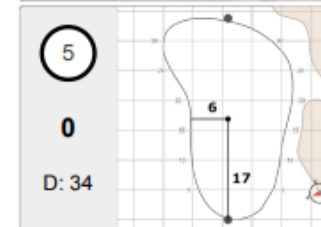
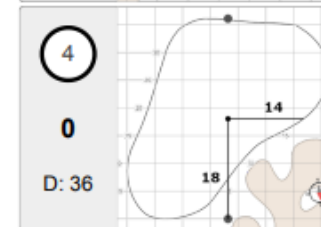
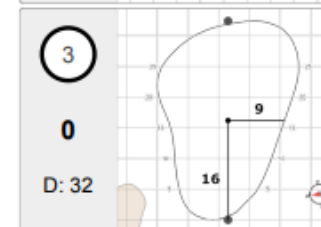
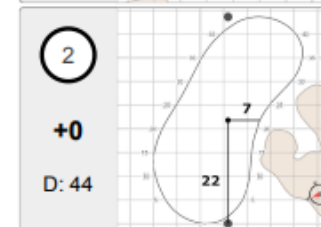
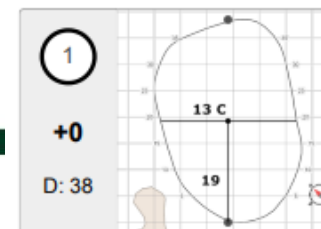
To access the VSGA Local Rules and Terms of the Competition, please scan the QR code below.



# StrackaLine Hole Location Sheet

Two Rivers Country Club

1/3/2025





## LOCAL RULES AND TERMS OF THE COMPETITION FOR 2025 VSGA QUALIFIERS AND CHAMPIONSHIPS

*The Rules of Golf as approved by the United States Golf Association and R&A Rules Limited govern play. These Local Rules and Terms of the Competition are in effect at all VSGA championships and qualifying rounds. See applicable championship or qualifying round notice to players and entry application for modifications or additions to these Local Rules and Terms of the Competition. Complete text of the Rules and Local Rules may be found in the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf, effective January 2023.*

**Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule is the general penalty.**

**Out of Bounds** — Defined by the line between the course-side points, at ground level, of white stakes and fence posts. When roads define out of bounds a ball that comes to rest across a road is considered to be out of bounds even if it lies on another part of the course (see Model Local Rule A-5).

**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 out of bounds — Model Local Rule B-2.2 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.

**Ground Under Repair** — Defined by white lines, unless otherwise provided for in the *Notice to Players*.

- French drains are ground under repair.
- Ground under repair may include areas of unusual damage, including areas where spectators or other traffic has combined with wet conditions to affect materially 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 part of that obstruction.

**Animal Near Ball** — Model Local Rule E-13 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.

**Relief from Seams of Cut Turf** — Model Local Rule F-7 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.

**Immovable Obstructions Adjacent to Artificially-Surfaced Roads and Paths** — Deemed to be a continuation of the road and/or path.

**Immovable Obstructions Close to Putting Green** — Model Local Rule F-5.2 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Relief under this Local Rule is only allowed when both the ball and the Immovable Obstruction lie in an area cut to fairway height or less.

**White-Lined Areas Tying Into Artificially Surfaced Roads and Paths** — White-lined areas of ground under repair and the artificially surfaced roads, paths or other identified obstructions that they are connected to are a single abnormal course condition when taking relief under Rule 16.1.

**Wood Chips and Mulch** — Are loose impediments.

**Integral Objects** — Include cables, rods, wires or wrappings when closely attached to trees; and artificial walls and pilings when located in penalty areas and bunkers.

An exposed bunker liner may be treated as ground under repair, but interference does not exist if the liner interferes only with the player's stance.

**Temporary Immovable Obstructions** — Model Local Rule F-23 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Any air-circulation fans and tents on the course are temporary immovable obstructions. Relief procedure may be taken on either side of the TIO.

**Relief From Aeration Holes** — Model Local Rule E-4 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.

**List of Conforming Driver Heads** — Model Local Rule G-1 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.

**Missing Player or Marker Certification** — Model Local Rule L-1 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.

**Pace of Play** — See [vsga.org](https://vsga.org) for complete pace of play policy.

- Timing — When a group is being timed, each player in the group is expected to play all strokes within 40 seconds. Timing begins when it is the player's turn to play and nothing is obstructing his/her play.
- Penalties — One bad time - warning, a second bad time - one stroke penalty, a third bad time - additional two stroke penalty (three total), a fourth bad time - disqualification.

**Stopping and Resuming Play** — Model Local Rule J-1 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. 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 comply might result in disqualification.

- Immediate suspension: one prolonged airhorn note.
- All other suspensions: three consecutive short airhorn notes.
- Resumption of Play: two short airhorn notes.

**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 all scores have been approved by the Committee. The result of a match is final when the Committee has approved the result.

**TIME OF STARTING** - The official starting time is the time on the starter's clock on the respective starting hole(s). All other clocks are unofficial.



# Out of Bounds


- Defined by the line between the course-side points, at ground level, of white stakes and fence posts
- When roads define out of bounds a ball that comes to rest across a road is considered to be out of bounds even if it lies on another part of the course (see Model Local Rule A-5)

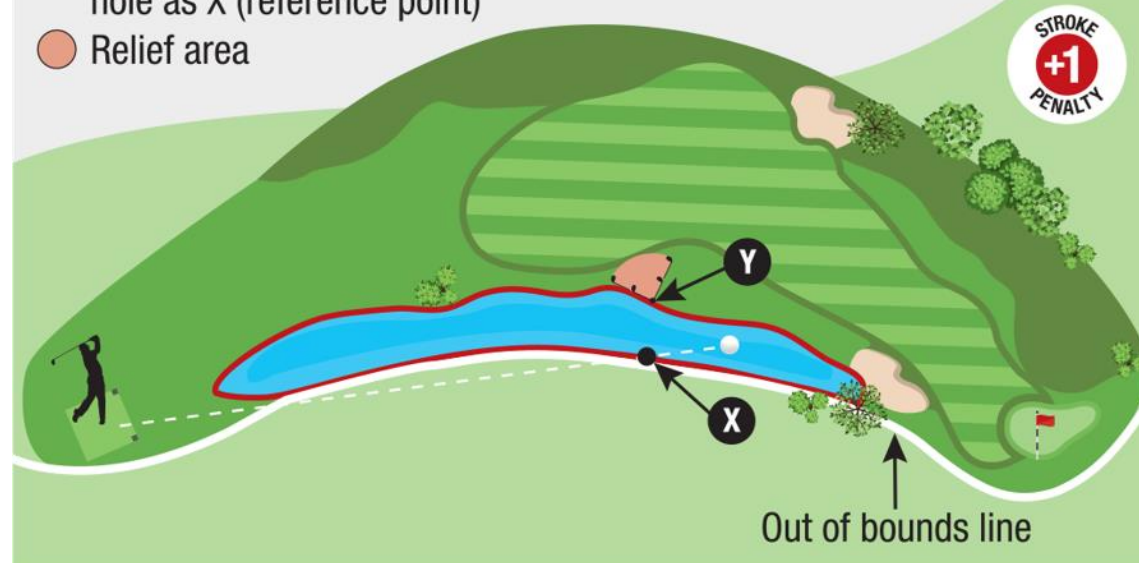


## Penalty Areas - Model Local Rule B-2.2

- 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 out of bounds — Model Local Rule B-2.2 as prescribed in section 8 of the committee procedures is in effect
- If the ball last crossed the edge of a red penalty area that coincides with a boundary of the course, as an extra relief option for one penalty stroke, the player may drop the original ball or another ball on the opposite side of the penalty area

## MLR B-2.1 AND B-2.2: RELIEF ON OPPOSITE SIDE OF RED PENALTY AREA

- X** Point that ball entered the penalty area
- Y** Point on opposite edge the same distance from the hole as X (reference point)
-  Relief area



If it is known or virtually certain that the player's ball is in a red penalty area, the player may take relief using one of the options under Rule 17.1d or, as an extra relief option when Model Local Rule B-2.1 or B-2.2 is introduced, the player may also take lateral relief on the opposite edge of the penalty area for one penalty stroke.

Reference Point	Size of Relief Area	Limits on Relief Area
The estimated point (point Y) on the opposite edge of the penalty area that is the same distance from the hole as the estimated point (point X) where the original ball last crossed the edge of the red penalty area	Two club-lengths from the reference point	The relief area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Must not be nearer the hole than the reference point, and</li><li>• May be in any area of the course except the same penalty area</li></ul>



# Ground Under Repair

- Ground under repair — defined by white lines, unless otherwise provided for in the notice to player
- French drains are ground under repair
- Ground under repair may include areas of unusual damage, including areas where spectators or other traffic has combined with wet conditions to affect materially 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 part of that obstruction



# Abnormal Course Condition

- Immovable obstructions adjacent to artificially surfaced roads and paths — deemed to be a continuation of the road and/or path
- White-lined areas tying into artificially surfaced roads and paths — white-lined areas of ground under repair and the artificially surfaced roads, paths or other identified obstructions that they are connected to are a single abnormal course condition when taking relief under rule 16.1



# Seams of Cut Turf - Model Local Rule F-7

- Relief from sod seams, even if the area is not marked as ground under repair
- Relief is only allowed when:
  - A ball lies in one of the cut turf seams (sod seam)
  - A seam interferes with the player's area of intended swing
- Relief is not allowed when the seam only interferes with the player's area of intended stance
- All seams within the area of cut turf are treated as the same seam in taking relief



# Immovable Obstructions Close to Putting Green - Model Local Rule F-5.2

- Relief from interference by an immovable obstruction may be taken under Rule 16.1 with this extra option to take relief when such immovable obstructions are on or close to the putting green **and** on the line of play:
- Ball in general area - May take relief under Rule 16.1b if an immovable obstruction is within two club-lengths of the putting green and within two club-lengths of the ball
- Both the ball **and** the immovable obstruction must lie in the general area and in an area cut to fairway height or less



# Integral Objects

## Include the following:

- Cables
- Rods
- Wires or wrappings when closely attached to trees
- Artificial walls and pilings when located in penalty areas and bunkers
- An exposed bunker liner may be treated as ground under repair, but interference does not exist if the liner interferes only with the player's stance



# Other Objects

- Wood chips and mulch — are loose impediments
- Relief from aeration holes — Model Local Rule E-4 as prescribed in section 8 of the committee procedures is in effect
  - Relief only when player's ball lies in or touches an aeration hole.
  - But interference does not exist if the aeration hole only interferes with the player's stance or intended swing, or on the putting green, on the player's line of play.



# Temporary Immovable Obstructions (TIOs) – Model Local Rule F-23

- Is a structure that is temporarily added on or next to the course, usually for a particular competition, and is fixed or not readily movable
- Ex – air circulation fans, tents
- Outermost edge of the TIO is used in determining whether a ball is under the TIO or whether the TIO is on the player's line of sight between the ball and the hole



# TIOs Cont.

- Player can choose to take relief by using either:
- Rule 16 and treating the TIO as if it were an immovable obstruction
- The additional relief option available under this local rule
- **Relief is allowed when:**
  - There is physical interference
  - Line of sight interference
  - Both physical and line of sight interference



# TIOs Cont.

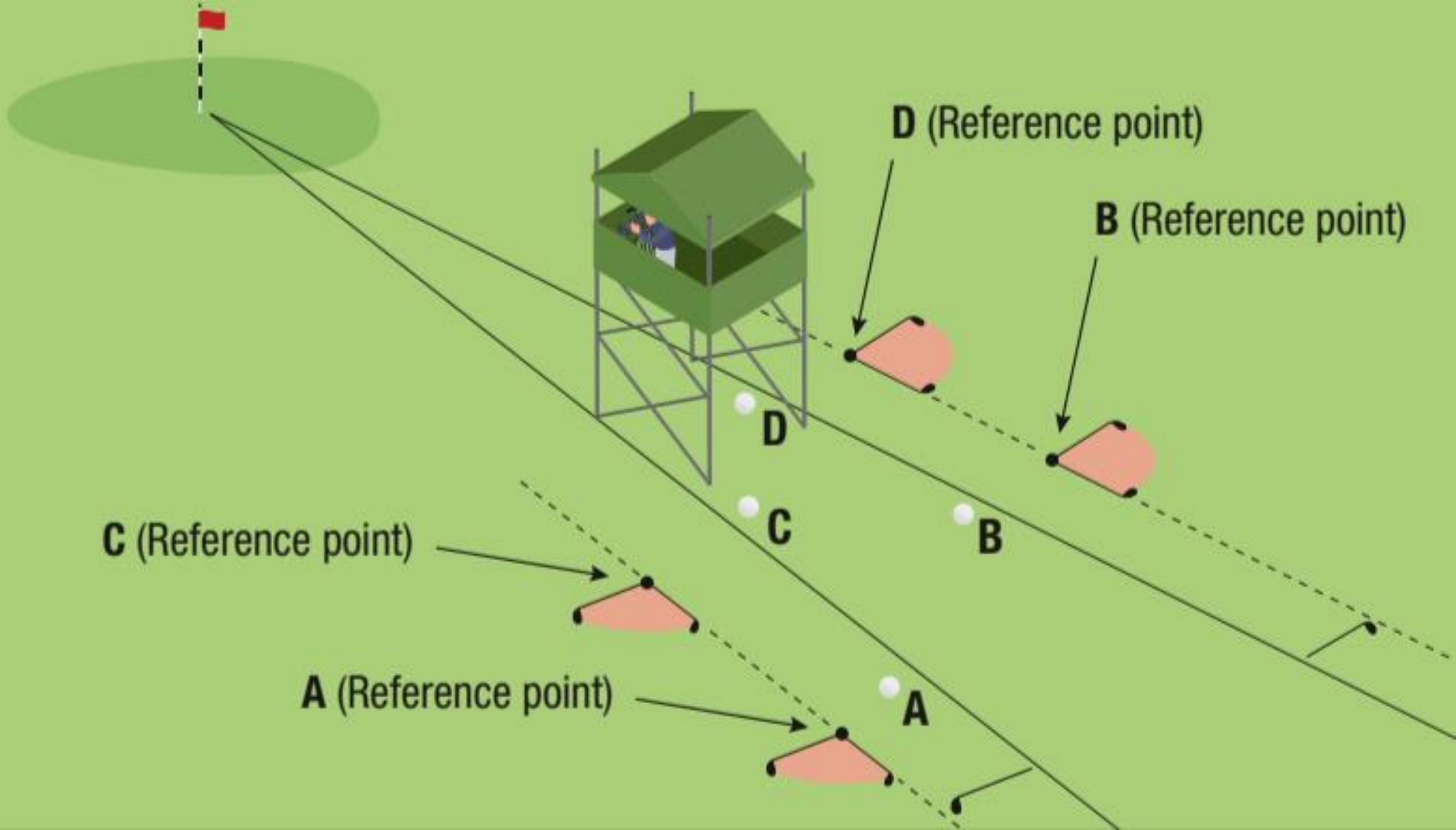
## Meaning of line of sight interference:

- The player's ball touches or lies in, on or under a TIO, or
- The TIO is on the player's line of sight to the hole (that is, the TIO is located on the straight line between the ball and the hole), or
- The ball is within one club-length, measured on an equidistant arc from the hole, of a spot where the TIO would be on the player's direct line of sight to the hole



# TIOs Cont.

- Either Side Relief Option:
- The Committee may permit the player the option to take relief on the other side of a TIO in addition to the relief options allowed under clauses b and c of this local Rule





# Stopping and Resuming Play

Model Local Rule J-1: signals when play is being stopped:

- Immediate suspension: one prolonged airhorn note – “STOP”
- All other suspensions: three consecutive short airhorn notes – “Time to Go”
- Resumption of Play: two short airhorn notes – “Play Ball”



# Stopping and Resuming Play Cont.

- 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 comply **might** result in disqualification



# Scorecard & When Competition is Final

- Missing player or marker certification — Model Local Rule L-1 as prescribed in section 8 of the committee procedures is in effect
- 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 all scores have been approved by the committee. The result of a match is final when the committee has approved the result



# Questions

Session 2: Thursday, March 20th, 11:00 a.m.

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