

N.J. SENIOR GOLF LEAGUE

RULES OF PLAY

- USGA Rules of Golf shall govern all play, except where modified by Local Rules as outlined below.
- Whenever USGA Rules and Penalties differ between Match Play and Stroke Play, the Rules and Penalties for Match Play shall govern.
- Home Team Captains shall notify the Visiting Captain before play of any unusual Course conditions e.g. Temporary Greens, Holes out of Play etc.

LOCAL RULES

1. PREFERRED LIES

- a A ball lying on a “Fairway” or other closely mown area of the hole being played, may be lifted WITHOUT PENALTY, cleaned and placed within 12 inches of where it originally lay, not nearer the Hole, or it may be “rolled over” with the golf club. It shall be placed to preserve, as nearly as possible the stance required playing from the original lie. After the ball has been placed, it is in play.
- b The lie of the ball resting on the First Cut off the Green may be similarly improved.
- c A ball lying in a Bunker may be lifted; the sand raked level and the ball replaced as closely as possible to its original position.

2. EMBEDDED BALL

After notifying an opponent, a ball which is embedded in it’s own pitch mark any where “Through the Green” may be lifted WITHOUT PENALTY, cleaned and dropped as closely as possible to the spot where it lay, but not nearer to the hole.

3. BALL LOST or OUT OF BOUNDS

- a A Provisional Ball may be played if the Ball in Play may be thought to be Out of Bounds or Lost outside a Water Hazard. Failure to play this Provisional Ball under either of these circumstances constitutes a Waiver by the Player of the option of later returning to the spot from where the Original Ball was last played if the Original Ball was not found, or was determined to have been Out of Bounds (USGA Rule 27-1).
- b If a Provisional Ball was not played, the Player, under a penalty of TWO STROKES, shall drop a new ball in the “Rough” at a point no closer than Two Club Lengths from the edge of the “Fairway” on a lateral line from where the ball was presumably lost or last crossed the Out of Bounds boundary.
- c If a Provisional Ball was played, Option b, is not available to the Player.
- d All balls must be marked for identification and shown to opponent. If ball cannot be specifically identified, it will be considered at lost ball.

4. UNPLAYABLE BALL

A player may declare his ball unplayable at any place on the course except when the ball lies within a water hazard.

USGA Rule 28 allows one of the following options, under penalty of ONE STROKE, when a player deems his ball unplayable:

- a. Play a ball as nearly as possible at the spot from which the ball was last played
- b. Drop a ball within two club-lengths of the spot where the ball lay, but not nearer the hole
- c. Drop a ball behind where the ball lay, keeping that point directly between the hole and the spot on which the ball is dropped, with no limit to how far behind that point the ball may be dropped

To speed up the pace of play, a league player is not allowed to return to the spot from which the original ball was last played. In lieu of option 28-a, a Player, under penalty of TWO STROKES, must obtain relief as outlined in Local Rule 3-b, by dropping a ball in the “Rough” at least Two Club Lengths from the edge of the “Fairway” on a lateral line with the Unplayable Lie.

A player has the right to choose option 28b or 28c under penalty of ONE STROKE. If the unplayable ball is in a bunker and the player elects to proceed under 28b or 28c, a ball must be dropped in the bunker.

The ball may be cleaned when lifted under this rule.

5. HOLES OUT OF PLAY

a- Whenever a Hole has a Temporary Green(s) or is otherwise affected by course construction or maintenance, the Hole shall be “Eliminated from the Match” and scored as follows:

i) In Match Play, the Hole shall be scored as a “Half”.

ii) The Hole shall be scored by each Player as “Par plus any Handicap Strokes he is entitled to receive” based on his Course Handicap, as indicated on the Score Card.

iii) If more than Five Holes on any Course are Out of Play at one time, the Match should be Rescheduled.

b- If a Hole Out of Play at the start of a Match is subsequently Returned to Play for later Players, these Players shall play the Hole as they find it.

Consequently, if the Hole is in Play at the beginning of the Match and then taken Out of Play for subsequent Players, only those Later Players shall score the Hole under this Local Rule.

6. LEAF RULE

In order to speed up play and to provide fairness to golfers under varying conditions, if there is an accumulation of leaves that makes it difficult to find a ball and you are 99% certain your ball is in the leaves and not lost as a result of another condition (in the woods, out of bounds, in a lake, etc.) you are entitled to full relief from the leaves WITHOUT PENALTY. Drop a new ball One Club Length from where the ball entered the leaves. You may not drop on a putting green or closer to the Hole.

7. PARTNERS

Team players in each foursome shall be considered partners for information sharing purposes only.

8. RANGE FINDERS

Distance measuring devices (laser, GPS, etc.) are allowed in league competition. Any information derived from said devices must be shared with all members of the foursome, if requested.

9. PUTTER SUCTION CUP

A small suction cup, that is placed on the grip end of a putter to pick up a ball without bending over, is allowed.

10. ANCHORING PUTTER

Players will be allowed to anchor putters.