



### **Riverwood National Men's Club Rules of Play and Information**

Riverwood National Men's Club Tournament play is governed by the *USGA Rules of Golf*, and by the following Local Rules and Definitions. Any changes or additions to these will be supplied on a supplementary *Local Rules* sheet which will be displayed on Men's Club Bulletin Board or tournament scoring area. Men's Club members are responsible for knowing the Rules of Golf.

Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule or Condition is: **Stroke Play-Two Strokes. Match Play-Loss of hole**

**TIME OF STARTING** - The player must start at the time established by the *Tournament and Rules Committee Chairman*. If the player arrives at his starting point, ready to play within five minutes of his starting time, the penalty for failure to start on time is two strokes at the first hole in stroke play or loss of the first hole in Match Play. If the player arrives after the five-minute period, the penalty is **disqualification**. (I.E .start time of 7:45 means you are at your assigned hole ready to play at 7:45:00.)

**PACE OF PLAY** – Men's Club members must keep up with the group in front of them. Failure for a group to keep up with group in front may result in a 1-stroke penalty for slow play.

**WATER AND LATERAL WATER HAZARD STAKES AND LINES** Water hazards are defined by yellow stakes, flags or yellow lines. *Rule 26-1*. Lateral water hazards are defined by red stakes, flags or red lines. *Rule 26-1*.

- When stakes, flags and lines are used to define water and lateral water hazards, stakes and flags identify hazards and lines define margins. A ball is in a **water hazard** when it lies in or any part of it touches the **water hazard**. Stakes used to define the margin of or identify a **water hazard are obstructions**.
- When a lateral water hazard is defined on only one side, it is deemed to extend to infinity.
- When water hazards and lateral water hazards are bounded by out of bounds, the hazard margin extends to and coincides with the out of bounds line.

**GROUND UNDER REPAIR** –May be defined by white lines. French drains are deemed to be ground under repair. Flowerbeds on the course also are deemed to be ground under repair. *Rule 25-1*.

**OUT OF BOUNDS** – Defined by nearest inside points of stakes, flags, fence posts, and masonry walls at ground level. When OB is defined by white line on the ground, the line itself is out of bounds. *Rule 27-1*. A ball is **out of bounds** when all of it lies **out of bounds**. A player may stand **out of bounds** to play a ball lying within bounds

**OBSTRUCTIONS** – An obstruction is anything artificial, including the artificial surfaces of roads & paths and white lined areas tying into them, **except**:

- A. Objects defining out of bounds, such as a wall, fences, stakes & railings;
- B. Any part of an immovable artificial object which is out of bounds; and
- C. Any construction declared by the committee to be an integral part of the course. See *Rule 24*.

**PRACTICE ON COURSE** – In all stroke play competitions, between the play of two holes, a player must not play any practice stroke on or near the putting green of the hole last played. This does not preclude a player from finishing out a hole that his score may not be used in team competition. **PENALTY: Two Strokes at next hole**. Before a round on any day of a stroke-play tournament, a **competitor** must not practice on the **course** or test the surface of any **putting green** on the **course** by rolling a ball or roughening or scraping the surface. Practice rounds are permitted between rounds of a 2-day Men's Club Tournament. *Rule 7-1 Note*.

**ELECTRONIC MEASURING DEVICES** –The use of these devices is permitted in Riverwood National Men’s Club Tournaments. A player may obtain distance information by using a device that measures distance only. If, during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance-measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his play (e.g., gradient, wind speed, temperature, etc.), the player is in breach of *Rule 14-3*, for which the penalty is disqualification, regardless of whether any such additional function is actually used.” The device must be limited to measuring distance only. Features that would render use of the device contrary to the Local Rule include, but are not limited to:

- the gauging or measuring of slope;
- The gauging or measuring of other conditions that might affect play (e.g., wind speed or direction, or other climate-based information such as temperature, humidity, etc.);
- recommendations that might assist the player in making a **stroke** or in his play (e.g., club selection, type of shot to be played, green reading or any other advice related matter); or
- Calculating the effective distance between two points based on slope or other conditions affecting shot distance.

Such non-conforming features render use of the device contrary to the *Rules*, irrespective of whether or not:

- the features can be switched off or disengaged; and
- The features are switched off or disengaged.

A multi-functional device, such as a smartphone or PDA, may be used as a distance measuring device provided it contains a distance measuring application that meets all of the above limitations (i.e., it must measure distance only). In addition, when the distance measuring application is being used, there must be no other features or applications installed on the device that, if used, would be in breach of the *Rules*, whether or not they are actually used.

• **Decision 14-3/18** confirms that players can access reports on weather conditions on a smartphone during a round without breaching the Rules. Importantly, this Decision also clarifies that players are permitted to access information on the threat of an impending storm in order to protect their own safety.

**DOUBT AS TO PROCEDURE** – **Applies to Stroke Play only.** If a competitor is doubtful of his rights or procedure, the competitor may play a second ball. Before taking further action, the competitor must announce to his fellow-competitors his decision to proceed under this rule and with which ball he will score with if the rules permit. The player must report the facts to the **Tournament and Rules Committee Chairman** before returning his scorecard; if he fails to do so, he shall be **disqualified**. *Rule 3-3.*

**EMBEDDED BALL** – Anywhere “**through the green**”, a ball embedded in its own pitch-mark in the ground, except in loose sand, may be lifted without penalty, cleaned & dropped as near as possible to the spot where it lay but not nearer the hole.

**SCORE CARDS** – Score cards for tournaments will be produced by the Tournament and Rules Committee Chairman. Depending upon the tournament, score cards may be for produced for each individual or for the group. If individual score cards are produced, score cards should be exchanged with other members of your group so someone else is marking your scores. ***If individual score cards are used both the marker and the player must sign the score card.***

Upon completion of tournament play, players should check their hole-by-hole score carefully. ***All players must sign the score card and return it to the Tournament and Rules Committee as quickly as you can after your round (before you put your clubs in your car).*** This way we can keep the scoring of the event moving and get the results finalized as soon as possible. No alteration may be made on a score card after the **competitor** has returned it to the **Tournament and Rules Committee**. The Player’s Gross score for each hole must be recorded on the scorecard in the proper place. (I.E. The Gross score for hole 1 must be recorded in space for hole 1 etc.) The **competitor** is responsible for the correctness of the score recorded for each hole on his score card. If he returns a score for any hole lower than actually taken, **he is disqualified**. If he returns a score for any hole higher than actually taken, the score as returned stands.

**FAILURE TO HOLE OUT** If a **competitor** fails to hole out at any hole and does not correct his mistake before he makes a **stroke on the next teeing ground** or, in the case of the last hole of the round, before he leaves the **putting green**, **he is disqualified**. *Rule 3-2.*