



STANDARD RULES FOR GSWGA

A. General

A.1. Rules of play shall be governed by the USGA Rules of Golf except where amended by the GSWGA Rules Committee.

A.2. The Preferred Lie Rule is not in effect unless conditions during the competition warrant adoption.

A.3. Format for GSWGA Tournaments:

A Maximum Score of 12 (Gross) is adopted for all GSWGA tournaments. A player's score for a hole is based on the player's number of strokes (including penalty strokes), except that the player will get only the Maximum Score even if the actual gross score exceeds the maximum. A player who does not hole out under the Rules for any reason gets the Maximum Score for the hole. To help pace of play, a player is expected to pick up when her gross score has reached the maximum. No net double bogey.

a. Spring Championship Tournament

36 Holes Stroke Play Tournament: For Net Champion competition, players receive 95% of their course handicap.

b. Fall Team Tournament:

Each year the Tournament Committee will recommend the format to be played.

A. 4. Disqualification is for the following rule infractions:

a. Failure to be at designated Tee Box when the Tournament begins.

A player is responsible for being at the assigned tee promptly to begin play on time. Shotgun Start: If a player arrives late but within five minutes after the assigned starting time, the penalty for failure to start on time is two strokes at the first hole (Rule 5-3a). The assigned starting time for shotgun events is when a) a horn or siren is sounded, b) if no horn or siren is used, when the group can play without interference or c) if the player is in the second group to start on an assigned hole, when that group can play without interference.

If player is 5 minutes late to their assigned starting time as described above, the penalty for breach of this rule is disqualification.

Exception: Where the Committee determines that exceptional circumstances have prevented a player from starting on time, there is no penalty.

b. Returning a scorecard with a score for a hole lower than the actual score or no score.

Exception-Failure to Include Unknown Penalty: If one or more of the player's hole scores are lower than the actual scores because she excluded penalty stroke(s) that the player did not know about before returning the scorecard:

- The player is not disqualified.
- Instead, if the mistake is found before the close of the competition, the Committee will revise the player's score for that hole or holes by adding the penalty stroke(s) that should have been included in the score for that hole or holes under the Rules.

This exception does not apply when the excluded penalty is disqualification, or when the player was told that a penalty might apply or was uncertain whether a penalty applied and did not raise this with the Committee before returning the scorecard.

- c. **Leaving the course without turning in scorecard.**
- d. **Failure to exchange scorecards at the beginning of play.**

A.5. If a player or a team is disqualified due to any of the rule infractions noted above or any other infraction as stipulated in the USGA Rules of Golf, the player or team will not be eligible to receive any prizes awarded to overall or flight winners. If the disqualification occurs on the first day of the tournament, the player or team will be permitted to continue play as non-tournament players within their flight on the second day of the tournament. The player or team may act as markers for other player(s) in their group. If the disqualification occurs during play on the second day of the tournament, the player or team will be permitted to continue play awaiting a confirmation of disqualification from the Tournament Committee.

A.6. Tees will be marked with GSWGA markers and GSWGA flags will mark the hole placement on the greens. Look for these markers to ensure the correct hole is being played.

A.7. Cell phone usage is prohibited except for emergency calls. EXCEPTIONS: Distance measuring, Rules of Golf lookup, weather reporting, and live scoring are permitted.

A.8. Local Club Policy for the use of personal coolers shall be enforced.

A.9. Spectators: Spectators are allowed but they must stay on the cart path, observe the rules and etiquette of golf, not coach or give advice or interfere with or delay play anywhere around the players on the course. Spectators may not carry personal items for a player or assume the role of caddy. No spectator carts are permitted.

A.10. Caddie Policy: A player must not have a caddie during the round. Penalty for Breach of Local Rule: The player gets the general penalty for each hole (2 strokes) during which she is helped by a caddie. (Model Local Rule H-1.1)

B. Situational

B.1. Playing two balls when uncertain what to do: If a player is uncertain about the right procedure, she may complete the hole with two balls without penalty. The player must announce to her group that she is hitting a second ball, and which ball the player intends to be scored before making a stroke. The player must report the facts of the situation to the Committee before returning the scorecard even if the player scores the same with both balls. The player is disqualified if she fails to do so. Rule 20.1c(3)

B.2. Hitting across penalty area. If the first attempt is unsuccessful:

- a. Proceed under the appropriate rule; or
- b. If a designated drop area is available, drop a ball, under penalty of one stroke, in the designated drop area

Reminder: You are not allowed to play a *provisional ball* if the only place your original ball might be lost is in a *penalty area*.

At each tournament, the rules committee decides, with the advice of the local Pro, on which holes drop areas should be placed and where on the hole to place them.

B.3. Alternative to Stroke and Distance for Lost Ball or Ball Out of Bounds: When a player's ball has not been found or is known or virtually certain to be out-of-bounds, the player may take stroke-and-distance relief, or she has the additional option, for two penalty strokes, to drop a ball in and play from a relief area. The relief area is defined by the point where the ball is estimated to be or last crossed the edge of the course, lined up with the edge of the fairway, and includes two club lengths into the fairway, not nearer the hole and in the general area of the course. Complete details are available at USGA.org. <https://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/rules-hub/rules-modernization/major-changes/golfs-new-rules-stroke-and-distance.html> (Model Local rule E-5)

B.4. Relief from interference by an immovable obstruction close to the putting green may be taken under rule 16.1. The player has the 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: The player may take relief under the Rule of 16.1b if an immovable obstruction is on the line of play and is on or within two club-lengths of the putting green and within two club-lengths of the ball. But complete relief must be taken which includes both physical and line of play interference. Exception—No relief if line of play is clearly unreasonable. Penalty for Playing Ball from a Wrong Place in Breach of Local Rule: General Penalty Under Rule 14.7a (Model Local Rule. F-5.1)

C. End of Round/Tournament

C.1. Scorecards: Immediately upon completion of the round players must report to the scoring area to return their scorecards. It is the player's responsibility to certify the hole-by-hole scores on the scorecard and ensure that it is signed by **both the player and the marker**. The player and the marker can sign anywhere on the card. In Team Tournaments, only one team member and the marker are required to certify/sign. Either team member may return the certified/signed scorecard to the scoring area.

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 players round. Model Local Rule L-1 Rule 3.3b (2)

The GSWGGA paper scorecard is the official scorecard.

C.2. Settling Ties

- a. **Settling Ties for Championship Trophies:** Champion, Runner Up, Net Champion or Super Senior will be broken by hole-by-hole (sudden-death format) playoff conducted by the Tournament Chairman.

- b. Settling Flight Ties for Championship:** GSWGGA follows the USGA recommended procedure for resolving **FLIGHT** ties. The winner is determined using second day scorecards based on the best score for the last nine holes (10-18) regardless of the starting tee. If the tying players have the same score for the last nine, determine the winner based on the last six holes (13-18), then the last three holes (16-18). If the tie is still not broken, the winner will be determined based on the best score for the last hole (18). If the players are still tied, continue backwards from the last hole score until one player has a better score on a hole than the other(s).
- c. Settling Flight Ties Team Championship:** GSWGGA follows the USGA recommended procedure for resolving **FLIGHT** ties. The winner is determined using best ball scorecards based on the best score for the last nine holes (10-18) regardless of the starting tee. If the tying players have the same score for the last nine, determine the winner based on the last six holes (13-18), then the last three holes (16-18). If the tie is still not broken, the winner will be determined based on the best score for the last hole (18). If the players are still tied, continue backwards from the last hole score until one player has a better score on a hole than the other(s).

C.3. When Competition is Final: The competition is final when the trophy has been presented to the winner(s) or, in the absence of a prize ceremony, when all scores have been approved by the Tournament Committee.

C.4. Score Posting: All Championship scores will be posted as competition scores at the completion of the tournament by the GSWGGA tournament committee. Net Double Bogey will be applied before scores are posted. Scores from Best Ball will not be posted.