2023

# **N.J. SENIOR GOLF LEAGUE**

# RULES OF PLAY

1. USGA Rules of Golf shall govern all play, except where modified by Local Rules as outlined below.
2. Whenever USGA Rules and Penalties differ between Match Play and Stroke Play, the Rules and Penalties for Match Play shall govern.
3. 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
2. 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.
3. The lie of the ball resting on the First Cut off the Green may be similarly improved.
4. 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.
5. EMBEDDED BALL

USGA rule will be used.

1. BALL LOST or OUT OF BOUNDS
2. All penalties will be 1 stroke. Stroke and distance will not apply. Players may not return to the tee box once they have left it. Players are limited to 3 minutes to search for ball.
3. A ball that has crossed an Out of Bounds marker, or is off the golf course property, can be dropped within 2 club lengths of where it crossed the boundary.
4. A ball that is lost in a wooded, or other such area, can be dropped within 2 club lengths of where it entered that area, or in a mutually agreed area where the ball was thought to be lost within the area.
5. A ball lost in the rough may be dropped in a mutually agreed area where the ball was thought to be lost.
6. All balls must be marked for identification and shown to opponent. If ball cannot be specifically identified, it will be considered a 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.

If a player cannot obtain relief under USGA Rule 28, he may take a drop within 2 club lengths of where the ball entered the area, or at the nearest point of relief, no closer to the hole, where there is room to drop the ball and take his stance. 1 stroke penalty. He cannot return to the tee or previous spot.

1. TAKING RELIEF

 a Ball may be dropped from any height above knee level without penalty.

1. HOLES OUT OF PLAY

a Whenever a Hole  is otherwise affected by course construction or maintenance, the Hole shall be “Eliminated from the Match” and scored as follows:

* 1. In Match Play, the Hole shall be scored as a “Half”.
	2. 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.
	3. 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.

7. 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.

8. PARTNERS

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

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. ANCHORING PUTTER

 Players will be allowed to anchor putters.

12. DROP AREAS

 The League has reviewed all courses and set up drop areas where appropriate. Maps of the courses and holes involved are posted on the web page.

1. The drop areas may not be used where the player may deliberately drive the ball into the water as on hole #6 at Green Knoll, #17 at Warrenbrook, or similar holes. Those drop areas will still be in use for shots other than the drive.

Updated 011/08/22