

# *These specific Local Rules override USGA Rules of Play for MCMGA events.*

## **Embedded Ball Rule**

**USGA rule:** *Embedded ball rule where the player is entitled to relief through the green in closely mown areas only.*

**MCMGA rule:** *Embedded ball through green **WITH THE EXCEPTION** of hazards in all other areas.*

## **Code of player conduct**

**USGA rule:** *Committees may disqualify players for a serious breach of etiquette, but are not allowed to impose lesser penalties such as a 1-stroke penalty or a loss of hole/2-stroke penalty.*

**MCMGA rule:** *Committees are given authority to adopt their own code of player conduct and to set penalties for the breach of the standards in that code.*

## **Player moves or touches a loose impediment in a bunker when the ball is in the bunker**

**USGA rule:** *Loss of hole/2-stroke penalty (with exceptions).*

**MCMGA rule:** *No penalty **AS LONG AS** the player uses their hand in moving loose impediments.*

**Player accidentally moves his or her ball during search**

**USGA rule:** *1-stroke penalty.*

**MCMGA rule:** *No penalty **BUT** player must replace the golf ball back to its original position.*

**Player accidentally moves his or her ball or ball-marker on the putting green**

**USGA rule:** *1-stroke penalty (with exceptions).*

**MCMGA rule:** *No penalty.*

**Player touches the line of putt or touches the putting green in pointing out a target**

**USGA rule:** *Loss of hole/2-stroke penalty (with exceptions).*

**MCMGA rule:** *No penalty, **SO LONG AS** doing so does not improve the conditions for the player's stroke*

**Player use of Yardage book, Rangefinders and Electronic Devices**

**USGA rule:** USGA rule 4.3 Use of equipment.

**MCMGA rule: ALLOWED:** Handheld rangefinders and yardage books (i.e. STRACKALINE yardage books) within limits of USGA rule 4.3 will be allowed for play during MCMGA tournaments.

**NOT ALLOWED:** Electronic device that allows zooming in or out to show distances, objects, greens ETC. **MCMGA players that ignore this rule will be disqualified from that MCMGA event.**

## **\*Clarification of USGA rule 4.3 (a) 1.4.3a/1 – Limitations on Using Green-Reading Materials\***

**Rule 4.3** limits the use of equipment and devices that might help a player in their play, based on the principle that golf is a challenging game in which success should depend on the judgement, skills and abilities of the player. This Clarification of Rule 4.3 limits the size and scale of detailed putting green maps and any similar electronic or digital materials that a player may use during a round to help with reading their line of play for any stroke made from the putting green so that a player's ability to read a green remains an essential part of the skill of putting.

### **Putting Green Maps**

The player is allowed to use a putting green map or other putting green information, except that:

- Any image of a putting green must be limited to a scale of 3/8 inch to 5 yards (1:480) or smaller ("scale limit").

- Any book or other paper containing a map or image of a putting green must not be larger than 4 1/4 inches x 7 inches (the "size limit"), although a "hole location sheet" that displays 9 or more holes on a single sheet of paper may be larger, provided that any image of a single putting green meets the scale limit.

- No magnification of putting green information is allowed other than a player's normal wearing of prescription glasses or lenses.

- Hand drawn or written information about a putting green is only allowed if contained in a book or paper meeting the size limit and written by the player and/or their caddie.

### **Electronic or Digital Putting Green Maps**

In electronic or digital form, any image of a putting green must meet the above scale and size limits. Even when an electronic or digital putting green map meets the above limits, the player is still in breach of Rule 4.3 if the player uses any device in a manner not consistent with the purpose of these limits, such as by:

- Increasing the size of the green's representation beyond the scale or size limits;
- Producing a recommended line of play based on the location (or estimated location) of the player's ball.

**Playing out of fairway divots repaired or not repaired.**

**USGA rule:** USAG rule 8, Course played as it is found.

**MCMGA rule:** Relief from repaired or non repaired divots in **FAIRWAY ONLY** is allowed only if the player's ball comes to rest **INSIDE** a fairway divot, **NOT** next to, behind or in front of. Player is allowed to take relief up to 2 feet but not closer to the hole.

**Lift clean / place & Leaf rule.**

**USGA rule:** *USGA rule 14, procedure for ball; marking, lifting / replacing & USGA rule 7, search for ball; finding and identifying ball.*

**MCMGA rule:** Outside of USGA rule 14 & USGA rule 7, the Handicap & Rules Chairman will coordinate with board members the day of tournament play based on weather & course conditions to determine if “lift clean and place” rule or the “leaf rule” will apply in **Fairway Only** play.

**“Giveme” putts.**

**MCMGA rule:** **PUTT EVERYTHING OUT. NO GIVE ME PUTTS.**

**Ball comes to rest inside tree roots / behind tree**

**USGA rule:** *USAG rule 9, Ball is played as it lies.*

**MCMGA rule:** *Play ball as it lies -  
No penalty*

*One club length relief no closer to hole -  
1 stroke penalty*

*Move to fairway no closer to hole -  
2 stroke penalty*

**OUT OF BOUNDS.**

***USGA rule: Replace ball from original position with -1 stroke penalty.***

***MCMGA rule: Allowed one club length from point where ball when out of bounds no closer to the hole and -1 stroke penalty.***

**All MCMGA members should have general knowledge of the USGA Rules of Golf. Clarification of rules should be directed to the Chairman of the handicap & rules committee.**