



PWGA LOCAL RULES – UPDATED **January 2026**

Play is governed by the USGA rules of golf. Additionally, please use the following PWGA local rules.

LOCAL PWGA RULES:

OUT OF BOUNDS (OB) and LOST BALL (please use to speed play):

We have adopted a local rule allowing players an alternative to “stroke and distance” relief for both Out of Bounds and Lost Balls. This local rule allows you to drop a ball in the fairway for a **2 stroke penalty**. To determine where to drop your ball in the fairway: 1. estimate the spot where your ball is lost or went out of bounds; 2. find the nearest fairway edge that is not nearer the hole, and 3. drop your ball within two club-lengths of that fairway edge point. Add 2 strokes to your score.

Out of bounds at Papago is defined by the perimeter fencing surrounding the golf course, and the white stakes on hole #18. You have a max of 3 minutes to look for a lost ball. If you suspect your ball may be OB or Lost, you can always play a provisional before looking for ball #1. However, keep in mind that if you have hit a provisional, and you determine ball #1 is in fact OB or Lost, you cannot use this local rule and you must proceed playing your provisional ball.

NOTE: THIS OB/LOST BALL LOCAL RULE WILL NOT BE IN EFFECT DURING THE CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP.

RELIEF FROM BUNKER FABRIC LINER:

If your ball is in the bunker and the fabric liner interferes with your lie, intended stance, or area of intended swing, you are allowed free relief. You must find the nearest point of complete relief *within* the bunker and drop your ball in that relief area, within one club-length of the nearest point of complete relief, no closer to the hole.

RELIEF FROM A SPRINKLER HEAD NEAR THE GREEN: For relief from a sprinkler head that interferes with line of play, the sprinkler head must be within 2 club lengths of the green and your ball must be within 2 club lengths of the sprinkler head. Free drop, nearest point of relief, 1 club length.

RELIEF FROM CART PATHS: All areas considered a cart path are defined only as **pavement OR gravel (not dirt)**. FREE RELIEF - Obstructions *Rule 6*. Nearest point of relief plus one club length. Get “drop” approval from your playing partners. There is no relief from DIRT paths and tire tracks.

RELIEF FROM SOD SEAMS: You may take FREE RELIEF if your ball comes to rest specifically in the seam of a newly sodded area. Drop 1 Club Length from nearest point of relief, but the ball must remain in the sodded area.

DISTANCE MEASURING DEVICES: Allowed in all events, but not if they measure wind and/or elevation. *Rule 4*

CADDIES: Caddies are not allowed for any of our 4 major Tournaments.

HOLE #11 – We have adopted the use of a drop zone on #11. The drop zone is across the water and to the right of the green.

USGA RULES TO KEEP IN MIND:

HOLE #12 - The fenced area on the left of the fairway is an immovable obstruction. Free relief for swing and stance only, not line of sight. *Rule 16* If your ball is lost past the fenced area on the left of 12 – or into the desert on the right of 12 – please see the Local Rule for “Lost Ball” above.

NO RELIEF FROM DIVOTS IN THE FAIRWAYS

UNPLAYABLE LIE: You always have 3 relief options, all for 1 penalty stroke. Your 1st option is to go back to the spot of your previous stroke and play again (stroke and distance relief). Your 2nd options is to go back as far as you’d like and drop on the line from the hole through the spot where your ball lies (back-on-the-line relief). Your 3rd option is to drop anywhere within 2 club lengths of where your ball lies, no closer to the hole (lateral relief). *Rule 19*

PENALTY AREAS: Are identified by red or yellow stakes and/or lines. *Rule 17*

IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS: All control boxes and weather stations are obstructions. Swing and stance relief, plus one club length only, NOT line of sight relief. *Rule 16*

GROUND UNDER REPAIR: Must be defined by white lines or specific sign. *Rule 16*

LOOSE IMPEDIMENTS: Loose impediments may be removed from bunkers and all penalty areas. *Rule 15*

BALL ACCIDENTALLY MOVED ON THE PUTTING GREEN: No penalty ON THE GREEN if the ball or ball-marker is accidentally moved by the player, partner, opponent or any of their caddies or equipment. The moved ball or marker must be replaced. *Rule 15*

BALL ACCIDENTALLY MOVED DURING SEARCH: There is no penalty if you or anyone else moves your ball during a search. Simply replace it. *Rule 7.4*

DOUBT AS TO PROCEDURE: In stroke play, a player may play a second ball under *Rule 20.1c(3)* – confirm with pro shop after play which score counts.