



***Special  
Olympics***  
*Massachusetts*

## Golf Rules Quick Guide



**PGA**

Connecticut Section  
Golf Foundation

## GOLF RULES to be highlighted at a SOMA tournament

- **Lost Ball**
  - If a ball is lost or is out of bounds, Player has **5 Minute time limit** to find ball. Once time limit has been reached, the player must play a ball, **under penalty of one stroke**, as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was lost.
- **Provisional Ball**
  - A player may play a provisional ball if original ball is thought to be lost, out of bounds or in water, Player must announce they are hitting a provisional ball before searching for original ball. You must abandon your provisional ball if your original ball isn't lost, out of bounds, or not in a water hazard. If original ball not found, continue to play provisional ball **under plenty of one stroke**,
- **Immoveable Objects & Free Relief**
  - Sprinkler head, cart path, ground under repair or immovable object. Relief is granted from object only if your ball, intended stance, or swing is interfered with. Line of play is not covered. Take your stance, player will receive one club length of relief. The new spot has to be without interference from what caused drop. If new spot after relief is still unplayable, then player must follow unplayable ball rule
- **Unplayable Ball**
  - The player may deem his ball unplayable at any place on the course except when the ball is in a water hazard. The player is the sole judge as to whether his ball is unplayable. If the player deems his ball to be unplayable, he must, **under penalty of one stroke**:
    - Play a ball as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was lost/deemed unplayable or
    - Drop a ball behind the point where the ball lay, keeping that point directly between the hole and the spot on which the ball is dropped, with no limit to how far behind that point the ball may be dropped; or
    - Drop a ball within two club-lengths of the spot where the ball lay, but not nearer the hole.
  - Repair all ball marks and divots
- **Alternate Strokes Level II & III**
  - The players will play **alternately** from the teeing grounds and then alternate strokes until the ball is holed or **max # of shots allowed is reached** (*next bullet*)
  - **SWING AND MISS COUNTS AS A STROKE**
- **Ball falls off tee**
  - Prior to stroke taken (*swing & miss does not count*): allowed to re-tee up. No plenty
  - Swing & Miss: **COUNTS AS A STROKE**. Next player hits ball as it lies.
- **Max # of Strokes Allowed Per Hole**
  - The maximum score on a hole will be a **double par**. If the double par is played without holing the shot, the team shall record a score of double par X and circle the score and proceed to the next hole.
- **Local Rules & Official Golf Rules**
  - All local course rules, hazards and out of bounds will be followed
  - All official golf rules set forth by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews and the USGA shall govern competition except when in conflict with official Special Olympics Rules.

## Partner/Caddie Do's and Don'ts For Levels III, IV, V

Please note the rules and especially the “no coaching” rule (*as well as all rules*) will be enforced at Tournament of Champions. Coaching, in this context, is referred to as any discussion with the player during the course of the round relating to technique (*see definitions below*). Athletes in these levels are expected to make choices and to play a round **INDEPENDENTLY**.

### Definitions:

- A **COACH** is defined by the USGA: as one who assists the golfer in addressing the ball and with alignment prior to the stroke. A coach has the same status under the Rules as a caddie, however a coach may not be able to perform the duties of a caddie.
- A **CADDIE** is defined by the USGA: as one who assists the player in accordance with the Rules, which may include carrying or handling the players clubs during play.
- USGA defines **ADVICE** as: any counsel or suggestion that could influence a player in determining his/her play, the choice of a club or method of making a stroke.

### Allowed

- Offering encouragement, praise and support to the athlete.
- Offering advice to athlete on shot selection and strategy.
  - *Athlete must then take advice and formulate his/her own decision.*
- Stating yardage to the pin
- Rule clarification
- Assisting in finding a lost ball and reading the green

### Not Allowed

- Lining up the putt or shot and instructing athlete where to hit and how hard to hit it
- Fixing the athlete's swing, stance or grip
- Picking the club athlete should hit
- Showing athlete the proper technique for a certain shot

### **Examples**

When assisting the athlete in reading a green, the Caddie/Partner may say to athlete: “*Joe looks like the green breaks left to right.*” The athlete must use the partners/caddie advice, formulate his/her own decision, of where to hit the ball and how hard to hit it. This terminology may be used in Level II.

If athlete asks for advice on distance to pin, Partner/Caddie may say, “*Joe looks like we are 175 yards away, you may want to use a 5 iron.*” Again the athlete must take the advice and formulate his/her own decision. This may be said and done in Level II play.

Ball is 140 yards away from green with bunker in back and to right. Athlete asks partner for advice on what to do. Partner/caddie may say “*You may want to consider laying up and we'll chip and put it in*” Athlete can then determine to go for the green or lay up. **CAN'T** say and instruct athlete to lay it up, Athlete must decide how to play the ball after listening to advice given.

## **Golf Management Team**

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