



## Hard Card

### Local Rules and Conditions of Competition 2025

The Rules of the United States Golf Association will govern play. See UIL Golf Handbook for additional Local Rules and Conditions. Complete list of Rules and Local Rules may be found in the [USGA Official Guide to the Rules of Golf](#), effective January 2025 unless otherwise noted; the penalty for breach of a Local Rule is the **general penalty (2 penalty strokes)**. See [UIL Golf Manual](#) (pg.147) and UIL Championship Manual for additional Local Rules and Terms of the Competition. **Except for UIL misconduct penalties**, if a player breaches a Rule that results in **disqualification**, the effect shall be to disqualify the player for that round only.

**MAXIMUM SCORE - 9 STROKE RULE** - A player's score is capped at a maximum score of 9. At any time during the play of a hole, a competitor may pick up the ball and record a 9 for that hole if it becomes apparent to the player that a score of less than 9 is highly unlikely. All penalties that apply in stroke play apply in Maximum Score, except that a player who breaches any of these five Rules is not disqualified but gets the maximum score for the hole where the breach happened:

- Failure to hole out under Rule 3.3c,
- Failure to correct mistake of playing from outside the teeing area in starting a hole (see Rule 6.1b(2)),
- Failure to correct mistake of playing a wrong ball (see Rule 6.3c),
- Failure to correct mistake of playing from a wrong place when there is a serious breach (see Rule 14.7b), or
- Failure to correct mistake of making a stroke in the wrong order (see Rule 22.3).

**OUT OF BOUNDS** - Defined by the line between the course-side points, at ground level, of the white stakes, white lines, or fence posts. [Rule 18](#).

**PENALTY AREAS** - Penalty areas, which are bodies of water or other areas defined by the Committee where a ball is often lost or unable to be played. For one penalty stroke, you may use specific relief options to play a ball from outside the penalty area. [Rule 17](#)

**PACE OF PLAY** - [Rule 5.6b](#). Players must play efficiently and are advised of Rule 5.6b which encourages ready golf, 40 seconds per shot, and a focus on prompt pace of play. A player shall be subject to penalty if he/she unduly delays play and shall abide by pace of play memorandums when provided at events. **Penalty Structure (1st offense - Warning, 2nd offense - 1-stroke penalty for the player; 3rd offense - General Penalty (2 strokes); 4th offense - Disqualification).**

**SPECTATOR POLICY** - Players and spectators are to have minimal/no interaction during play. Patrons may assist in looking for a lost ball, but otherwise must stay on the cart path and/or far off the green during tournament play. Players are not to walk with spectators. If a spectator is observed walking with, talking to or giving advice (or appear to be) to a player: **Penalty Structure - 1st Offense - Rules officials, coach, or the Rules Committee may issue an official verbal warning to the player, player's coach, Rules Committee and spectator; 2nd Offense - General penalty (2 penalty strokes) will be issued to the player. 3rd Offense - the player will be Disqualified for that round only.**

Spectators are not allowed to comment or assist on any rulings on the golf course under any circumstance. It is the players' responsibility to police their group and be aware of all rules.

**REPORTING RULES VIOLATIONS** – If a player witnesses a rules violation, they must immediately alert the player in question and/or a high school coach or the Committee as to the possible infraction. The Rules Committee will do everything within their power to immediately resolve rules violations and assess proper penalties during the round. Any rules violations that cannot be immediately addressed or solved by the Rules Committee will be addressed at scoring and the proper penalty will be enforced.

**UIL COACHING RULE – TWO COACHES of RECORD** (Advice Giver) may engage (coach) with the player(s) from tee to green. Once their player steps onto the green, no coaching is allowed until all participants have finished the hole. **Penalty Structure (1st Offense – Warning; 2nd Offense – 1-stroke penalty for player and loss of coaching privileges for the coach; 3rd Offense - Disqualification of the player for the entire tournament).** [UIL Golf Manual](#)

**UIL UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT** – is defined as profane, vulgar and/or abusive language audible to others; carelessly and/or deliberately throwing clubs; verbalizing with intent of intimidation; or exhibiting behavior not in accordance with the spirit of fair play. A SERIOUS BREACH of Conduct could warrant immediate disqualification. **Penalty Structure (1st offense – General Penalty (2 Strokes); - 2nd offense – Disqualification).** If the golfer's action warrant, penalty may be disqualification for the round, and/or in the opinion of the tournament director the violation is flagrant, disqualification could be for the tournament. [UIL Golf Manual](#)

**UIL ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT** – Distance-measuring devices (USGA Rule 4.3a) are allowed under the rules of golf as long as the player does not access any information that is prohibited under this rule. Player found in breach will be subject to the **Penalty Structure (1st offense – General Penalty (2 Strokes); - 2nd offense – Disqualification)** [Understanding the Rules of DMDs](#)

**PROHIBITING USE OF AUDIO AND VIDEO DEVICES** - [The Model Local Rule G-8](#)

**TRANSPORTATION** - Players shall walk at all times, except that a coach, designated volunteer or an event official may assist players back into position after a delay for a ruling, lost ball, illness, etc. A coach, designated volunteer or an event official may transport players between nines for pace of play.

**SCORING AREA and SCORECARD RETURNED** – Only Participating Student Athletes, Coaches, Rules Officials, and Committee Members may enter the Scoring Area. The scorecard is returned once the player and marker(s) have signed the scorecard and given it to the committee. Once the scorecard is returned and the player has left the scoring area, scores are OFFICIAL and NO changes can be made.

**ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITIONS** (Including Immovable Obstructions), Dangerous Animal Condition, Animal Holes, Ground Under Repair, Temporary Water & Embedded Ball – Player may take relief from any of these abnormal areas. This Rule also covers free relief when your ball is embedded in its own pitch mark in the general area. The nearest point of complete relief should be identified and a ball must be dropped and come to rest in the relief area (one club length) no nearer the hole. [Rule 16, General Area Diagram 16.1b, Bunker Diagram 16.1c, Putting Green Diagram 16.1d](#)

**SOD SEAMS** – [Model Local Rule F-7](#)

**AERATION HOLES** – [Model Local Rule E-4](#)

**BALL DEFLECTED BY POWER LINE** – [Model Local Rule E-11](#)

**OUT OF BOUNDS WHEN PUBLIC ROAD RUNS THROUGH COURSE** – [Model Local Rule A-5](#) A ball coming to rest on or beyond the road is out of bounds, even if it comes to rest on another part of the course that is in bounds for other holes.

**PLAYING TWO BALLS WHEN UNCERTAIN WHAT TO DO** – A player who is uncertain about the right procedure while playing a hole may complete the hole with two balls without penalty: The player must decide to play two balls after the uncertain situation arises and before making the next **stroke**. The player should choose which ball will count if the Rules allow the procedure used for that ball, by announcing that choice to his or her marker or to another player 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 he/she fails to do so.** [Rule 20.1c](#)

**IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION** (Such as When There is Imminent Danger) – If the **Committee** declares an immediate suspension of play, all players must stop play at once and must not make another **stroke** until the Committee resumes play. All practice areas are CLOSED during suspension for dangerous situation until the Committee declares them open. **Penalty for Breach of Rule 5.7b: Disqualification.** NOTE: Method for Stopping and Resuming Play [Model Local Rule J-1](#) Immediate Stop: One prolonged note of the siren. Resume Play: Two short notes of siren.

**LIST OF CONFORMING GOLF BALLS** – Conforming Ball Must Be Played, see [USGA List](#) for conforming ball list.