

120th Southern Amateur Championship
Atlanta Athletic Club (Highlands), Johns Creek, GA
July 15-18, 2026
Notice to Players

FORMAT, PLAYOFF, PRIZES

Play from the SGA Tee Markers

Format is 72 holes of stroke play. After 36 holes, the field will be cut to the low 50 scores and ties for the final two rounds. The lowest score for 72 holes will be the Champion. In the event of a tie for the Championship, a sudden death hole-by-hole play-off will be used to determine the winner. Players are responsible for making themselves available in the scoring area to receive playoff instructions. SGA will determine the playoff hole(s).

The name of the Champion will be inscribed on the *George W. Adair Trophy*. Champion receives the Calamity Jane Putter. Medals will be awarded to the top three players. A tie for second and third place medals will be broken using the USGA recommended scorecard playoff procedure (final round scorecard: last 9 holes, last 6 holes, last 3 holes, 18th hole).

OUT OF BOUNDS

Defined by the line between course-side points, at ground level, of chain-link fence posts around the perimeter of the course, the outside edge of the cart path behind Hole #9 and the course-side edge of the cart path behind Hole #18. White stakes and dots are used to identify along the cart path.

DROPPING ZONES

As an additional option under Rule 17.1d for a ball that is known or virtually certain to be in the yellow penalty area, a player may use the area within two club-lengths of the green stake (movable obstruction) as a dropping zone on the following holes:

- a) Hole #4 – Forward tee, approximately 115 yards from the center of the green.
- b) Hole #17 – Forward tee, approximately 100 yards from the center of the green.
- c) Hole #18 – Short, right of the penalty area, approximately 60 yards from the center of the green.

IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS

- a) Artificial grass walking paths behind Hole #7 green and left of Hole #13 green are immovable obstructions.
- b) Mulch walking paths are immovable obstructions.

PENALTY AREAS

- a) Red penalty areas are defined by red lines and identified by red stakes.
- b) Yellow penalty areas are defined by yellow lines and identified by yellow stakes.

PUTTING GREENS

Turf plugs larger than 4 1/4 inches may be repaired under Rule 13.1c.

PACE OF PLAY

Groups out of position and over the allotted pace time will be warned that individuals in the group are subject to being timed. See Pace of Play policy online for timing procedure and scorecard for pace of play timing guidelines. Penalties are applied to individuals, not to the group. Note that a group out of position but within its time limit may be unofficially asked to close the gap.

Note: The policy may provide that at any time, if a player is observed by a referee to take longer than a specified time to play a shot (i.e., 120 seconds), they will be notified of the excessive shot time and be timed, even though the group is in position.

WEATHER EVACUATION PLAN

In the event of suspension of play for a dangerous situation all players must proceed to the clubhouse area. Please reference the evacuation plan located on the back of the hole location sheet for evacuation sites nearest to the player's position.

All practice areas are closed during a suspension of play for a dangerous situation until the Committee declares them open.

RULINGS

In case of a ruling, call the SGA Rules Phone at 303-931-2621. A rules official will be dispatched to your location.

SCORING AREA

The scoring area is inside the Wicker Room (located behind Hole #18 Green and adjacent to 1898 room). A player has exited the scoring area when he exits the Wicker Room.

RULES COMMITTEE

Brian Scheufler, Jeremy Gardner, Chris Cupit, Tommy Snell, Dick Dosek, Mickey Zarra, Mark Grantham, Omer Waddles, Roger Waterer, Jerry Duffy, Kurt Faxon

Local Rules and Terms of the Competition

The Rules of Golf as approved by the United States Golf Association and R&A Rules Limited govern play. These Local Rules and Terms of the Competition are in effect at all Elite Amateur Golf Series championships and qualifiers. See applicable championship Notice to Players and Entry Information for modifications or additions to these Local Rules and Terms of the Competition. Complete text of the Rules and Local Rules may be found in the current Official Guide to the Rules of Golf, effective January 2023. Disregard local rules printed on club scorecard. Unless otherwise specified, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule is the general penalty.

CODE OF CONDUCT: See separate [Code of Conduct Policy](#) memorandum.

PACE OF PLAY: See separate [Pace of Play Policy](#) memorandum.

PROHIBITING USE OF MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION: Model Local Rule G-6 is in effect. During a round, a player and caddie must not ride on any form of motorized transportation except as authorized or later approved by the Committee. A player operating under a stroke and distance penalty is always authorized to ride on motorized transportation.

PRACTICE: Prior to and after a round in stroke play, a player may practice on the designated practice areas. Rule 5.2b covering practice in stroke play is modified in this way: A player may not practice on the competition course before or between rounds. Penalty for breach of Local Rule, see Rule 5.2.

OUT OF BOUNDS: Defined by the line between the course-side points, at ground level, of white stakes and fence posts.

PENALTY AREAS: When a penalty area is defined on only one side, it extends to infinity. When a penalty area is connected to the out-of-bounds edge, the penalty area extends to and coincides with out of bounds.

ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITIONS (Rule 16.1):

(a) GROUND UNDER REPAIR: Defined by white lines. Ground under repair also includes French drains, which are trenches filled with rocks or stones. For grass-covered trenching, see Temporary Power Lines and Cables. Ground under repair may include areas of unusual damage, including areas where spectators or other traffic has combined with wet conditions to affect materially the ground surface, but only when so declared by an authorized member of the Committee. When immediately adjacent to an obstruction, such an area is part of the obstruction.

(b) RELIEF FROM SEAMS OF CUT TURF: Model Local Rule F-7 is in effect.

(c) IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS: Include plastic bumpers on roads and paths, and mats secured to the ground with spikes when the bumpers or mats cover cables.

(d) WHITE-LINED AREAS TYING INTO ARTIFICIALLY SURFACED ROADS AND PATHS: White-lined areas of ground under repair and the artificially surfaced roads, paths, or other identified obstructions that they are connected to are a single abnormal course condition when taking relief under Rule 16.1.

TEMPORARY POWER LINES AND CABLES: Model Local Rule F-22 is in effect.

WOOD CHIPS AND MULCH: Are loose impediments.

INTEGRAL OBJECTS: Include cables, rods, wires, or wrappings when closely attached to trees and boundary objects. Artificial walls and pilings when located in penalty areas (or when used to define penalty area) or in or adjacent to bunkers and bunker liners. **Note:** An exposed bunker liner may be treated as ground under repair, but interference does not exist if the liner interferes only with the player's stance.

GATES IN BOUNDARY FENCES AND WALLS: Model Local Rule F-26 is in effect. All closed gates that are attached to boundary walls and fences are part of the boundary object. Relief is not allowed from such a gate under Rule 15.2 or 16.1.

IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS CLOSE TO PUTTING GREEN (BOTH BALL AND OBSTRUCTION ARE IN PART OF GENERAL AREA CUT TO FAIRWAY HEIGHT OR LESS): Model Local Rule F-5.2 is in effect and modified to also include a ball in the general area cut to fairway height or less and the obstruction is on the putting green within two club-lengths of the ball.

TEMPORARY IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS: Greenside fans, starting, scoring and concession tents, scoreboards and hole signs are temporary immovable obstructions (TIO's). See Model Local Rule F-23 for interference and relief procedure.

BALL DEFLECTED BY POWER LINE: If it is known or virtually certain that a player's ball hit a power line, power line tower or a wire or pole supporting a power line, the player must cancel the stroke and replay the original ball or another ball without penalty from the spot that stroke was made (see Rule 14.6). Model Local Rule E-11.

SPECIFICATIONS OF EQUIPMENT:

(a) PROHIBITING USE OF AUDIO AND VIDEO DEVICES: Model Local Rule G-8 is in effect.

(b) REPLACING CLUB THAT IS BROKEN OR SIGNIFICANTLY DAMAGED: Model Local Rule G-9 is in effect.

(c) LIST OF CONFORMING DRIVER HEADS: Model Local Rule G-1 is in effect.

(d) GROOVES AND PUNCH MARK SPECIFICATIONS: Model Local Rule G-2 is in effect.

(e) LIST OF CONFORMING GOLF BALLS: Model Local Rule G-3 is in effect.

(f) PROHIBITING USE OF CLUBS LONGER THAN 46 INCHES: Model Local Rule G-10 is in effect.

(g) PROHIBITING USE OF CERTAIN TYPES OF SHOES (METAL SPIKES): Model Local Rule G-7 is in effect.

STOPPING AND RESUMING PLAY: Model Local Rule J-1 is in effect. An immediate suspension will be signaled by one prolonged airhorn note. All other types of suspension will be signaled by three consecutive airhorn notes. Resumption of play will be signaled by two short airhorn notes.

Note: All practice areas are closed during an immediate suspension for a dangerous situation until the Committee has declared them open. Players who practice on closed practice areas will be asked to stop practicing; failure to stop practicing might result in disqualification.

SCORECARDS: A scorecard is deemed returned once a player exits the defined scoring area (see "Notice to Players" for location). A player that remains within the defined scoring area may make alterations to their scorecard, with the consent of their marker or the Committee.

MODIFICATION OF PENALTY UNDER RULE 3.3b(2) FOR MISSING PLAYER OR MARKER CERTIFICATION: Model Local Rule L-1 is in effect.

WHEN COMPETITION IS FINAL: The competition is final when the trophy has been presented to the winner or, in the absence of a prize ceremony, when all scores have been approved by the Committee.

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GOLF SERIES