

Denver City Amateur Golf Tournaments

2026 Terms of Competition & Local Rules – (The Hard Card)

The *Rules of Golf* of the United States Golf Association and the *Denver City Amateur's Policy & Procedures* govern play. The *Notice to Competitors (Notice)* and the *Entry Guidelines* for each event supplement and supersede any conflicting provisions in the *Terms of Competition & Local Rules* below. References to the *Model Local Rules* published in the *Official Guide to the Rules of Golf* are prefaced by "MLR". The local rules of the host courses are not applicable. Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a local rule or condition of play is the *General Penalty*. A decision by the *Committees* is final.

General Terms of Competition

- The Committee:** The *Event Committee* consists of the following onsite or available by phone, text or email: The DCP Manager of PGA Professionals, The DCA Tournament Director (TD), the designated Denver PGA Professional in charge, the Head/Chief Rules Official (OIC, CRO), and any additional members appointed by the TD as listed on the *Notice*.
- The Rules Committee:** The TD, the designated Denver PGA Professional in charge, The Chief Rules Official (OIC, CRO), and any additional members appointed by the TD or OIC.
- Rulings & Disputes:** A player always has the right to appeal a ruling to the *Rules Committee* before the official return of their scorecard.
- Event Format & Teeing Areas:** Defined on the *Notice* for each event. The assigned *Teeing Area* for each player should be on their scorecard.
- Addendums:** The *Committee* may at any time issue addendums to the *Hard Card* and *Notice* for any unusual or temporary conditions. The *Committee* may notify players in the starting area of an additional local rule in effect for each day.
- Scoring Area:** The TD shall define an official scoring area where scorecards must be promptly returned by the group. Failure to report at scoring may result in revocation of entry without refund of the entry fee.
- Return of Scorecards:** Immediately upon the completion of a round, the players must promptly return their signed and attested scorecard to the designated scoring area. The penalty for a player returning a scorecard without proper certification under Rule 3.3b(2) is modified to the General Penalty MLR[8L-1].
- Ties:** Governed by the policy set in *Denver City Amateur Policy & Procedures*. Ties for the Winner in each flight will be decided by a playoff on holes to be determined by the *Committee*.
- Close of Competition:** The competition is closed when all scores have been posted on the official scoreboard or when officially approved by the *Committee*.
- Conduct, Dress Code:** *Denver City Amateur Policy & Procedures* govern conduct on the course property and apply to a player's caddie. At all times, the players and their caddies must be neat in appearance with respect to clothing and personal grooming. Objectionable or unbecoming conduct includes club throwing, foul language, intentional damage to the golf course or property, abuse of officials or course staff, disruptive behavior in the Club House and alcohol/drug impaired behavior. Cell/Smart phone usage is discouraged except for viewing tournament documents, emergencies, or to request a ruling. The *Committee* is the sole judge if the standards of conduct have been breached. Violation by the player or his/her caddie may result in disqualification and the revocation of entry fee without refund, {Rule 1.2b}
- Footwear:** Players and caddies must wear footwear. Shoes with traditionally designed spikes, regardless of the composition of the spikes, are prohibited MLR[8G-7], {Rule 1.2b}.
- Suspension of Play:** Suspension and resumption of play are signaled as follows MLR[8J-1]:
Immediate Suspension of Play (E.G. Dangerous Condition): One prolonged note of an air horn; penalty for failure to cease play immediately: Disqualification.
Normal Suspension of Play: Three consecutive notes of an air horn, repeated; players may finish play of their current hole.
Resumption of Play: Two consecutive notes of an air horn, repeated. {Rule 5.7b}.
All practice areas are closed during an immediate suspension until the *Committee* declares the practice areas open. Practice on a closed practice area during a suspension may result in the revocation of the entry of the player without refund of entry fee and additional sanctions by the Denver City Amateur Committee.
- Pace of Play/Undue Delay of Play:** The *Pace of Play Policy* in The *DCA Policy and Procedures* govern play MLR[8K-1 to 8K-5]. Players walking in an event where automotive transportation is permitted may be required by the TD to use a cart if they are unduly delaying play. "Ready Golf" from the start of each par 4 and par 5 hole is strongly encouraged {Rule 5.6b(2)}!

Automotive Transportation (Motorized Carts): Permitted including motorized push/pull carts.

Practice between holes: Prohibited MLR[8I-2].

Practice on Competitive Course on Day of or Between Rounds in a Stroke Play Event: Prohibited {Rule 5.2b}, MLR[8I-1.1]. First offense 2 penalty strokes, second offense DQ.

Areas of Course

Out of Bounds: Defined by white lines, white stakes, the course side edge at ground level of walks, roads fences or walls. A ball that crosses a public road defined as out of bounds and comes to rest beyond the road is out of bounds even if lying on another part of the course MLR[8A-5]. Closed Gates that are part of a Boundary Fence or Wall are part of that *Boundary Object* MLR[8F-26].

Internal Out of Bounds: Stakes defining or identifying an Internal *Out of Bounds* for a hole are *Boundary Objects* for that hole; they are treated as *Immovable Obstructions* for all other holes, MLR 8A-4. Internal *Out of Bounds* should be listed on the *Notice*.

Penalty Areas (Red and Yellow): When a edge of a penalty area is defined on only one side, it extends to infinity.

When a *penalty area* edge adjoins a course *Out-of-Bounds*, the *Penalty Area* extends to and coincides with the out of bound's edge of the course.

Integral Objects: Includes cables, rods, wires or wrappings when closely attached to trees; artificial walls and pilings, railroad ties and the like and when located in bunkers and penalty areas; and exposed liners in *Bunkers*. The *Committee* may designate on the *Notice* that an exposed liner in a *Bunkers* is an *Immovable Obstruction* MLR[8F-6].

No Play Zones (NPZs): Designated by Green Topped Stakes and/or Signs; relief is mandatory under the applicable {Rule 16.1f, Rule 17.1e}. Flower beds, newly sodded areas, turf nurseries and *Wrong Putting Greens* are *No Play Zones*.

Ground Under Repair (GUR): Defined by white lines around an area, flower beds, newly sodded areas, turf nurseries and French drains. Only the *Committee* may declare an additional part of the course as *Ground Under Repair*.

Protected Areas of Course: Flower beds, newly sodded areas, turf nurseries and *Wrong Putting Greens* are *No Play Zones* from which play is prohibited; the player must take relief under applicable Rule.

Path and Artificial Surfaced Roads on the Course: Maintenance Paths, Dirt Roads, Cart Paths are *Immovable Obstructions*.

Areas Tied into Artificially Surfaced Roads and Paths: White-lined areas of GUR connected to artificially surfaced roads & paths (*Immovable Obstructions*) are a single *Abnormal Course Condition* (ACC). Protective small fences, stakes, posts or similar adjacent to a cart path are treated as part of the cart path. Bare/damaged areas touching a cart path are part of the path. Relief may be taken under {Rule 16.1}, MLR 8F

Local Rules In Effect

Equipment: The following optional conditions apply to all competitions.

- a. Conforming Driver Heads: Penalty for a Breach: Disqualification MLR[8G-1].
- b. Conforming Golf Balls: Penalty for a Breach: Disqualification MLR[8G-3].
- c. Groove and Punch Mark Specification: The exception for the pre March 1990 Ping Eye 2 Irons is not in effect. Penalty for breach: Disqualification MLR[8G-2].
- d. The One Ball Local Rule MLR[8G-4] is not in effect.
- e. For a stroke with any club, except a putter, whose length exceeds 46" is not in effect, MLR[8G-10].

Audio & Visual Devices: The use of devices including headsets and earbuds to eliminate distractions to the player's performance is prohibited; the use of all personal audio/video devices during the *round* is prohibited unless permitted on the *Notice* MLR[8G-8] {Rule 4.3}.

Abnormal Course Condition Tied Into an Artificially Surfaced Road or Path: White-lined areas of GUR adjacent to an artificially surfaced road or path are treated as a single *Abnormal Course Condition* MLR[8F-3.1]. Damaged areas, protective small fences, stakes, posts or similar adjacent to an artificially surfaced cart path or road are part of the cart path or road MLR[8F-3.2].

Seams of Cut Turf Not Defined as GUR: Relief allowed is for lie of the ball or the stroke but not for stance MLR[8F-7].

Ball Striking an Elevated Power Line: Must be replayed MLR[8E-11]

Immovable Obstructions Close to The Putting Green: The *ball in play* and the *Immovable Obstruction* must be in the same closely mown area cut to fairway height or less MLR[8F-5.1], MLR[8F-5.2].

Landscaped Garden Areas Flower beds, Shrubbery, or the like encircled by an Immovable Obstruction: Are considered part of the obstruction MLR[8F-3.3].