

2023 National Tour Challenge Overall Rules and Format

PLAYERS RESPONSIBILITY

It is each player's sole responsibility to know and follow the rules of golf and posted local rules. Take a picture for reference on the course if needed.

USGA RULES GOVERN ALL PLAY EXCEPT AS MODIFIED BELOW

- **The following local rules are in place for each day of the tournament:**

Daily local rules that are course specific may be posted or announced as needed before each round based on specific circumstances found that day.

Sand Bunkers – If ball is in any sand bunker, you can lift - clean - rake or smooth - and place your ball in same spot it came to rest.

High Grass/Weeds/Brush/Woods/Water – These areas are defined as unmaintained and played as a RED PENALTY area. Unmaintained means other than normal fairway and rough areas (this is not meant for variations in rough height or thickness, or ornamental grasses, it is meant for areas that are not typically mowed or cut often). This is in place as many courses are inconsistent or not marked properly. The margin is the water edge or line of maintained grass and unmaintained area. White OB stakes are still played as Out of Bounds (see next local rule).

Lost Ball or Out of Bounds: The 2021 revised option for a ball lost or out of bounds when a provisional ball is not hit is in effect. REMEMBER, MAXIMUM OF 3 MINUTES TO SEARCH FOR A BALL.

This option allows the player to drop in a large area between the point where the ball is estimated to have come to rest or gone out of bounds and two club lengths from the edge of the fairway of the hole being played that is not nearer the hole. The player is assessed two penalty strokes when using this relief option.

This means that the relief is comparable to what could have been achieved if the player had taken stroke-and-distance relief.

This Local Rule ***cannot*** be used for an unplayable ball, or for a ball that is known or virtually certain to be in a penalty area.

If a provisional ball is played and neither the original ball nor the provisional ball can be found, then the Local Rule may be applied for the provisional ball that cannot be found.

Distance Measuring Devices: Distance measuring devices are allowed and information shared. Such devices may only measure distance (not slope, wind, etc.).

Relief from Abnormal Ground Conditions:

This Rule covers free relief that is allowed from interference by: Animal Holes, Ground Under Repair, Immovable Obstructions, Temporary Water.

Because we are playing the tournament on courses that may not have all abnormal conditions clearly marked, the Committee has determined the following:

If a majority of the foursome agrees that a participant's ball is in an area that should reasonably have been marked as an abnormal ground condition, the participant would be entitled to free relief from the condition within one club length no closer to the hole.

INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION

Stroke play, three-day event (Fri-Sun), 54-hole net score total, by flight.

TEAM COMPETITION:

The team competition will be based on a 3-day average net score to par by day for each team.

For Friday, every player's score counts towards the team score

For Saturday the teams use the best 70% percent of total players scores up to a max of 20 players.

For Sunday the teams use the best 50% of their total players up to a maximum of 14 players.

The team score for each day as determined above, are averaged for the three day total. The team with the lowest average is the winner. Why weight each day evenly – this will put less weight on the full field averages from Friday and the most on Sunday Scores, thus putting more weight on the best scores from Sunday for each team, potentially allowing for a large comeback.

HANDICAP ADJUSTMENTS

If a player shoots a combined six under compared to the course ratings in the first two days of the tournament, the player will be subject to a handicap adjustment for the third day. The handicap adjustment will be made by adding the two tournament scores to the players existing score history and recalculating the handicap index and course handicap for the third day.

CHEATING

Anyone caught cheating will be immediately disqualified from the entire event and will not be allowed to play following rounds. This is a decision by the organizers.

ON COURSE DISPUTES -

IF THERE IS A DISAGREEMENT OR UNCERTANTIIY RELATED TO ANY RULING REQUIRING A BALL TO BE PLAYED FROM OTHER THAN 'HOW IT LIES', A PARTICIPANT SHOULD PLAY TWO BALLS, ONE FROM EACH OF THE DIFFERENT PLAYING OPTIONS, DECLARING WHICH IS THE PARTICIPANTS DESIRED BALL TO COUNT (THIS DECLARATION NEEDS TO BE MADE PRIOR TO PLAYING EITHER SHOT.

Reporting Disputes: Disputes must be reported to the scorer's table at the time the scorecards are submitted. If you are not present with your foursome and / or do not report the incident at that time, the directors have the right to disregard the dispute. Any disputes will be decided by a majority of the TOUR directors who are present at the time the dispute is reported. Each Tour shall have one vote in all decisions. A minimum of 3 TOURs must be represented before a decision can be made.

Pace of Play: Please keep pace with the group ahead of you. Play ready golf. Each group must check in at the scorer's table immediately upon completing their round. Score cards do not need to be ready, but you must report in. During non-shotgun starts, any group that checks in more than 20 minutes behind the preceding group may be penalized for slow play (note: a 20-minute gap is more than an open Par-5 on the course). In addition, on course rangers will be empowered to assess a penalty to a group if the group has a hole open in front of them, and the condition persists for 3 holes.

SCORING

Score Cards—No score card will be valid unless signed by the player and his/her scorer. Scores will be official once cards are signed AND posted by tournament officials.

Tie Breakers—Ties for first place in any flight for the 3-day event will be determined by an on-course, sudden death playoff. The playoff will start on hole 1, unless the course directs us to start elsewhere. The playoff will be played as net score using tournament handicap. All other ties combine and split.

Completion of Round- If a player fails to hole out on any hole, the player is deemed to have withdrawn from the event.