

# Tour Rules of Play <sup>1/2017</sup>

*Current USGA Rules of Golf augmented by these Tour Rules of Play shall serve to direct the Committee's governance of play.  
The terms "Tour" and "Series" here are synonymous.*

1. **SCORECARD PRINTED RULES** Any local rules printed on the official scorecard shall be in effect. Local rule signs and drop areas on the course SHALL NOT be in effect unless specified by the Committee.
2. **OUT OF BOUNDS** White stakes, and connecting white lines, outer fences/walls and automobile roadways/parking lots shall define Out Of Bounds. [Balls coming to rest on the golf course beyond the defined OB are also Out Of Bounds. (Decision/1)]
3. **WATER HAZARDS** shall be bounded by yellow stake(s) and red stake(s) for Lateral Hazards. In the absence of a yellow or redline between the stakes, the hazard boundary shall be defined where the ground breaks downward to where water may collect, or where the ground is not further maintained.
4. **TEEING GROUND** on each hole shall be defined by the back most tee marker(s) or longest tee set.
5. **THROUGH THE GREEN** is any area on the course which is not a teeing ground, putting green or hazard. Waste Areas are included and are defined as dugout areas containing sand which unlike bunker hazards, contains a tree or bush, or is by design not entirely cut out from the surrounding ground.
6. **ONE BALL RULE** requires each player to play the same respective make and model ball throughout any round.
7. **EMBEDDED BALL RULE** shall apply in all "Through The Green" areas including "Waste Areas".
8. **ACCIDENTAL MOVEMENT** On the putting green there is no penalty for accidental movement of the ball or ball marker.
9. **DISCONTINUED PLAY** If casual water surrounds the hole on the putting green, or hazardous conditions such as the nearby threat of lightning, then the group may discontinue play without penalty until such conditions dissipate. All players in the group must discontinue and remain with the group if any one player of that group discontinues under this rule.
10. **GROUND UNDER REPAIR (GUR)** is any area on the course enclosed by white painted line. Unmarked areas of question may be subject to definition by the Committee as GUR only in extreme and unique cases, consistent with USGA Rule 4-1
11. **STONES IN BUNKERS** shall be considered movable obstructions.
12. **HANDHELD RANGEFINDERS** Use of handheld distance measuring devices which do not lend advice or slope compensation capability (unless these functions remain unused during play), are authorized.
13. **CELL PHONES** may only be used for emergencies, to check for hazardous weather, to enter/view holes scores for the LEADERBOARD STEPPING, or enter QUIKSTAT APPROACH shot information.
14. **MISCONDUCT** may be failure to smooth own footprints in bunkers, throwing of clubs, consumption of alcohol or any illegal substance, distraction to other players during their shot execution period, or any illegal activity would constitute misconduct. Any instance of misconduct may subject the player to DISQUALIFICATION and/or rejection from future events. If any player requires more than 10 strokes over the par for the first five holes or 15 over par for the first nine holes, then that player shall be deemed non-competitive, disqualified, and shall not play more than 5 strokes on any hole thereafter. The Committee may remove any disqualified player from play.
15. **PACE OF PLAY** No player shall require more than 45 seconds to play any shot. After receiving a warning from the Committee, the penalty for the first infraction shall be one stroke, two strokes for the second infraction and DQ for the third infraction. Ready golf is encouraged.
16. **DECIDING TIES FOR NEXT ROUND GROUPINGS** shall be accomplished by the "match of cards" starting with the first hole of play of the last round played. This process consistent with the USGA rules, assures equity and transparency for the players.
17. **SCORECARD BOX** authorized for use by the USGA as an alternative to the "scoring area" may be employed by the Committee for the players return of scorecards. After scorecards are deposited into the box, no alterations are possible.
18. **EVENT SPECIFIC RULES** printed on an event rule sheet or stated openly by the Committee shall take precedence.
19. **THE COMMITTEE** shall resolve any dispute or doubtful point on the rules, and their decision shall be final. The Committee shall only consist of the OGATOUR.org Activity Director and others by direction.

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