

# LOCAL RULES AND TERMS OF THE COMPETITION FOR 2025 RIGA CHAMPIONSHIPS



Rhode Island Golf Association tournament play is governed by the *USGA Rules of Golf*. These Local Rules and Terms of the Competition are in effect at all RIGA Championships and qualifying rounds. Any modifications or additions to these Local Rules and Terms of the Competition will be supplied on a *Notice to Players* and/or Entry Application for that Championship. Complete text of the Rules and Local Rules may be found in the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf, effective January 2023.

Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule is the General Penalty

**Out of Bounds:** Defined by the line between the course-side points of white stakes and fence posts at ground level.

**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.

**Ground Under Repair:** Defined by white lines. French Drains are ground under repair. For grass-covered trenching, see Temporary Power Lines and Cables.

Ground under repair may include areas of unusual damage, including areas where 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 immovable obstruction such an area is part of the of that obstruction.

**Relief from Seams of Cut Turf:** Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule F-7.

**Aeration Holes:** Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule E-4.

**Immovable Obstructions:** Include plastic bumpers on roads and paths, and mats secured to the ground with spikes when the bumpers or mats cover cables.

**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.

**Wood Chips and Mulch:** Are loose impediments.

**Integral Objects:** Includes all on course stone walls, cables, rods, wires or wrappings when closely attached to trees, and artificial walls and pilings when located in penalty area and bunkers, unless otherwise provided for in Notice to Competitors/Local Rules.

**Bunker Liners:** An exposed bunker liner is treated as Ground Under Repair, but interference does not exist if the liner interferes only with the player's stance.

**Conforming Ball Rule:** Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule G-3.

**Broken or Significantly Damaged Club:** Model Local Rule G-9 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.

**Turf Nurseries:** All turf nurseries are No Play Zones and treated as Ground Under Repair. Players must proceed under Rule 16.1.

**Temporary Power Lines and Cables:** Model Local Rule F-22 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.

**Missing Player or Marker Certification:** Model Local Rule L-1 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committees Procedures is in effect.

**Pace of Play:** See separate memorandum to players for pace of play guidelines, when applicable.

**Immovable Obstruction Close to the Putting Green:** Relief is available only when the ball and the immovable obstruction lie in a closely-mown area, the ball lies in the general area, and an immovable obstruction on or within two club-lengths of the putting green and within two club-lengths of the ball intervenes on the line of play between the ball and the hole. Take relief under Rule 16.1b. No relief if line of play is clearly unreasonable.

**Stopping and Resuming Play:** Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule J-1.

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

An immediate suspension will be signaled by one prolonged air horn note. All other types of suspensions will be signaled by three consecutive air horn notes. Resumption of play will be signaled by two short air horn notes.

**RIGA Code of Conduct Policy:** By submitting an entry, or by participating in any RIGA competition, the player understands that their participation is at the sole discretion of the RIGA.

A contestant may be removed from any competition at the discretion of the RIGA at any time before or during the competition. Incidents of unbecoming conduct or actions deemed to be detrimental to the image of the RIGA or the "Spirit of the Game" are grounds for such removal and possible suspension from future RIGA events.

These include, but are not limited to the following: cheating; willful destruction of the golf course/property; public criticism of golf course or verbal abuse of RIGA staff, officials, volunteers, host club staff or other contestants; club throwing and/or physical endangerment of others; offensive or excessively loud behavior; inappropriate golf attire; or other conduct deemed to be unbecoming.

**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. The result of the match is final when the Committee has approved the result as posted on the public scoreboard.

**Ties & Playoffs:** Contestants are reminded of their responsibility to keep informed regarding the possibility of playoffs due to ties.