

Sonterra Country Club Amateur Championships

Local Rules and Terms of the Competition

(HARD CARD – 2025)

The Rules of Golf as approved by the United States Golf Association and the R&A govern play. See applicable Championship or qualifying round Notice to Players and Entry Application for additional Local Rules and Terms of the Conditions. Complete text of Rules can be found in the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf effective January 2023. These Local Rules and Terms of the Competition supersede any local rules on the scorecard or posted in the respective course golf shop.

Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule is the general penalty.

Local Rules

Standards of Player Conduct (Rule 1.2)

Contestants (and their caddies) must Act with integrity – for example, by following the Rules, applying all penalties, and being honest in all aspects of play. They are to observe proper golf etiquette at all times. Any abuse or disrespect of fellow competitors, officials, spectators, employees of the host facility, or other persons conducting or attending a Sonterra sponsored event can be grounds for disqualification from the event, and possible rejection of entry for future Sonterra events. Such abuse may be verbal or physical or threat thereof and includes, but is not limited to: the use of obscene language, physical damage to property, or equipment of GSA, or the host facility, and being under the influence of alcohol, or controlled substances during a competitive round.

Out of Bounds (Rule 2.1, Rule 18.2): Defined by the inside points at ground level of white stakes and property fence posts. When out of bounds is defined by a white line on the ground, the line itself is out of bounds. Out of bounds stakes and posts are fixed objects. When the inside edge of a road or curb defines out of bounds, a ball that crosses such boundary and comes to rest beyond is out of bounds, even though it may lie on another part of the course. Holes with Out of Bounds: North – 1,2,3,4,5,7,9,11,12,13,15,16,17,18; South – 1,5,9,10,11,12,13, 17,18

Model Local Rule E-5: Unless otherwise specified, when a Player's ball has not been found or is known or virtually certain to be Out of Bounds, rather than proceeding under stroke & distance, for two-stroke penalty by dropping a ball in the relief area. Reference point is the point where the original ball is estimated to have last crossed the edge of the course boundary and the point of fairway of the hole being played, nearest to the ball reference point, but not nearer the hole. Dropped Ball within two club-lengths to the fairway side.

Model Local Rule F-5.1: When an immovable obstruction within 2-club-lengths of the putting green and within 2-club-lengths of the ball on a player's line of play, in an area cut to fairway height, player may take relief under Rule 16.1

Model Local Rule F-9: If a player's ball lies in the general area and there is interference from exposed tree roots that extends to areas of the course cut to fairway heights or less or in the rough within two club-lengths from the edge of the area cut to fairway height, the tree roots are treated as ground under repair. The player may take free relief under Rule 16.1B.

Penalty Areas, Stakes and Lines (Rule 17): When both stakes and lines are present, stakes identify the Penalty Area and lines define the edge. When a Red Penalty Area is defined on only one side, it is deemed to extend to infinity. When Penalty Areas are bounded by out of bounds, the edge of the penalty area extends to and coincides with the out of bounds line. Unless otherwise specified, when a ball crossed the edge of the Red Penalty Area, on Hole #7, by the Putting Green, as an extra relief option adding one penalty stroke, the player may drop a ball on the opposite side of the penalty area. Model Local Rule B-2.1.

Ground Under Repair (Rule 16.1): In addition to areas completely encircled by white lines, the following are also areas of Ground Under Repair, even if not so marked: French drains, which are exposed trenches filled with rocks or stones, Dangerous Animals, Earth cracks, the width/size of the blunt end of a common golf pencil or larger. Rules 16.1 and 14.3 apply to taking relief for abnormal course conditions. For earth cracks relief is only available for lie of ball and area of intended swing. Ground under repair may also include areas of unusual damage. When immediately adjacent to an immovable obstruction, such an area is part of that obstruction.

Relief from Seams of Cut Turf; Sod Seams (Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rules F7): If a player's ball lies in or

touches a seam of cut turf or a seam interferes with the player's area of intended swing: (a) Ball in General Area. The player may take relief under Rule 16.1b. (b) Ball on Putting Green. The player may take relief under Rule 16.1d. But interference does not exist if the seam only interferes with the player's stance. All seams within the cut turf area are considered the same seam.

Immovable Obstructions – includes Landscaped or garden areas (flower beds, shrubberies, or the like) completely encircled by an obstruction is part of the obstruction. When railroad ties, wooden posts, decorative rock, stones or stone curbing or the like adjoin artificially surfaced roads or paths, they are deemed to be part of the immovable obstruction. Exposed liners in bunkers.

White-Lined Areas Tying into Artificially Surfaced Roads and Paths (Rule 16.1): have the same status as the roads and paths, which are obstructions and are not ground under repair.

Wood Chips, Mulch and Stones in Bunkers – Are loose impediments.

Integral Objects - Includes cables, rods, wires and wrappings when closely attached to trees, fence or walls. Artificial walls and pilings when located within penalty areas unless otherwise specified in the Notice to Players. Water Tanks on Hole #5, South. Artificial walls and pilings when used to define the margins of bunkers or penalty areas are integral objects.

List of Conforming Driver Heads – Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule G-1.

List of Conforming Golf Balls – Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule G-3.

Broken or Significantly Damaged Club — Local Rule as prescribed in the Clarifications to the 2019 Rules of Golf is in effect. Model Local Rule G-9.

Back-On-the-Line Relief — Local Rule as prescribed in the Clarifications to the 2019 Rules of Golf is in effect. Model Local Rule E-12.

Pace of Play: (See Rule 5.6) See 'Notice to Players' or back of Sonterra scorecard for pace of play guidelines, when applicable.

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 practice 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 suspension will be signaled by three consecutive air horn notes. Resumption of play will be signaled by two short air horn notes.

Practice: Prior to and after the round in stroke play, a player may practice on the designated practice areas. Rule 5.5 practicing during round or while play is stopped, and Rule 5.2a covers practice before the round in match play.

Model Local Rule B-3: "If a player does not know whether his or her ball is in the penalty area, **North Course Hole 6**, the player may play a provisional ball under Rule 18.3, which is modified in this way: In playing the provisional ball, the player may use the stroke-and-distance relief option (see Rule 17.1d(1)), the back-on-the-line relief option (see Rule 17.1d(2)) or, if it is a red penalty area, the lateral relief option (see Rule 17.1d(3)). If a dropping zone (see Model Local Rule E-1) is available for this penalty area, the player may also use that relief option.

Once the player has played a provisional ball under this Rule, he or she may not use any further options under Rule 17.1 in relation to the original ball.