



**SAN VICENTE GOLF CLUB  
LOCAL RULES  
June 2026**

Play at the San Vicente Golf Club adheres to the USGA Rules of Golf, effective January 2019. Questions regarding USGA Rules and these Local Rules should be referred to the Head Golf Professional. If you are uncertain about the correct procedure while playing a hole, you may complete the hole with two balls and proceed in accordance with Rule 20.1c.

**1. Embedded Ball, Rule 16.3a**

Relief is allowed only when your ball is embedded in the general area. Relief is NOT allowed:

- a. When your ball is embedded in sand in a part of the general area that is not cut to fairway height or less, or
- b. When interference by anything other than your ball being embedded makes your stroke clearly unreasonable.

**2. Rule for Bridges Being In or Out of Penalty areas**

- a. All bridges that cross over a penalty area are part of the penalty area.
- b. You may ground your club if the ball lies on the bridge and if you elect to play from the bridge.
- c. You may not get relief from the bridge if your ball lies in the penalty area. (Inspect the bridge area to ensure you know the location of the stakes.)
- d. If your ball lies outside of the bridge and is not in the penalty area and your swing or stance is influenced by the bridge, you may take free relief.
- e. Relief is the nearest point where your swing and stance are not interfered with plus 1 club length, then drop the ball, which may not go closer to the hole and may not travel more than 2 club lengths.

**3. Immovable Obstructions Close to Putting Green**

- a. Relief from interference by an immovable obstruction may be taken under USGA Rule 14.1. In addition, if a ball lies off the putting green but not in a penalty 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, the player may take relief as follows: The ball must be lifted and dropped at the nearest point to where the ball lay that (1) is not nearer the hole, (2) avoids intervention and (3) is not in a penalty area or on a putting green. The ball may be cleaned when lifted.
- b. Relief under this Local Rule is also available if the player's ball lies on the putting green and an immovable obstruction within two club lengths of the putting green intervenes on the player's line of putt. The player may take relief as follows: The ball must be lifted and placed on the nearest point to where the ball lie that (1) is not nearer the hole, (2) avoids intervention and (3) is not in a penalty area. The ball may be cleaned when lifted.

#### **4. Cart Paths and Roads**

Relief is allowed when your stance or swing is interfered with by paved or unpaved paths and/or roads. Worn areas next to paths are considered to be extensions of the path.

#### **5. Concrete Drainage Ditches**

All concrete drainage ditches, except those in a penalty area, will be treated as an obstruction. When a ball comes to rest in these areas, the player will receive free relief for swing and stance per USGA Rule 16.1b, Abnormal Course Conditions (including Immovable Obstructions).

#### **6. All Penalty areas are to be played as Lateral Penalty areas**

All penalty areas will be marked with a red line or red stakes. Proceed under USGA Rule 17.1.

#### **7. Hole #3: Green-side Seasonal Fence.**

The green-side temporary fence is an obstruction, and relief may be taken by dropping the ball no closer to the hole with stance and swing relief.

#### **8. Hole #4**

Out of bounds is to the right of the cart path up to the maintenance road.

#### **9. Hole #6**

Out of bounds is to the left of the white stakes. These stakes do not apply to Hole #5.

#### **10. Hole #10**

Any ball hit into the penalty area to the right of the bridge from the teeing area may, under the penalty of one stroke, be played from the green tee area ball drop, or by taking relief in accordance with USGA Rule 17.1.

The native area to the left, surrounding, and including the pump house, is also a penalty area. Balls struck into this area may be played as they lie, or by taking relief and dropping in accordance with USGA Rule 17.1.

#### **11. Hole #11**

Any ball hit into the penalty area left of the bridge may proceed under USGA Rule 17.1 or under a penalty of one stroke may proceed to the ball drop on the green side of the penalty area.

#### **12. Hole #15**

Any ball hit into a penalty area after the drainage creek may proceed under USGA Rule 17.1, or under a penalty of one stroke may proceed to the ball drop on the tee-side of the drainage creek.

#### **13. Hole #16**

Any ball hit into the penalty area may, under the penalty of one stroke, be played from the green tee ball drop. If your ball is in the penalty area you may also proceed under USGA Rule 17.1.

#### **14. Holes #18**

The native area surrounding and including the pump house is a penalty area. Relief shall be taken in accordance with USGA Rule 17.1, or the ball may be dropped in the designated drop area (left of the green teeing area) under the penalty of one stroke. Balls struck into the pond may also be dropped in the designated drop area under the penalty of one stroke.

#### **15. Preferred Lie Rule**

A ball lying on a closely mown area through the green on a specified hole and posted by the Head Golf Professional in consultation with the Greens Superintendent may be lifted without penalty and cleaned. This also applies when a fairway is “cart path only” due to wet conditions. Before lifting the ball, the player must mark its position. Having lifted the ball, he must place it on a spot within six inches of and not nearer the hole than where it originally lay, that is not in a penalty area and not on a putting green. The ball may not be moved to give relief from a tree or other natural obstruction. A player may place his ball only once, and it is in play when it has been placed (USGA Rule 14.2). If the ball fails to come to rest on the spot on which it is placed, USGA Rule 14.2e applies. If the ball when placed comes to rest on the spot on which it is placed and it subsequently moves, there is no penalty, and the ball must be played as it lies, unless the provisions of any other rule apply. If the player fails to mark the position of the ball before lifting it or moves the ball in any other manner, such as rolling it with a club, the player incurs a penalty of one stroke. Note: “Closely mown area” means any area of the course, including paths through the rough, cut to fairway height or less.

#### **16. Penalty for Breach of Local Rule**

Match Play – Loss of Hole

Stroke Play – Two strokes

#### **17. Electronic Measuring Devices (without elevation adjustments)**

Electronic devices may be used at San Vicente Golf Resort.

#### **18. Lost Ball/Out of Bounds, USGA Model Local Rule E.5**

Unless prohibited by the organizer(s) of scheduled club events, players may exercise the option of dropping the ball in the fairway nearest the vicinity where the ball is lost or out of bounds, under a two-stroke penalty. This is in lieu of returning to the previous spot (stroke and distance) from which the lost ball or out-of-bounds ball was hit.