

MARS GOLF LEAGUE

RULES OF PLAY

2024

In order to provide a fair and level playing field for all the players in our tournaments, each player must strictly adhere to the standard rules of the USGA, along with any special rules for the specific golf course we are playing. In addition, the following special rules of our league will apply to make scoring fair and consistent for all players and to assure a proper pace of play. Adhering to the [Rules of Golf](#) is required in order to maintain our GHIN certification and allow us to use the GHIN handicapping system.

The Committee for MARS Golf shall be chaired by the League President and shall consist of the Vice President, Secretary Treasurer and the Handicap Chair. The Committee may enlist support from other parties as required. The event cochairs shall act on behalf of the Committee for their assigned events.

The Handicap Committee for MARS Golf shall be chaired by the Handicap Chair and shall consist of the President, Vice President, and Secretary Treasurer. All past Handicap Chairs are asked to be members of the Handicap Committee. The Handicap Committee may enlist support from other parties as required.

The Committee has established the following Rules:

1. Players will tee-off from their designated tee, except where a particular tournament specifies you should do otherwise. Male players will tee off from the Gold tees. Female players will tee off from the Short Red tees.
2. The MARS Golf Club has adopted [Rule 21.2 Maximum Score](#). The maximum allowable score for any hole is double par + 1. This applies for all competition types.
3. The following Local Rules as prescribed in [The Official Guide to the Rules of Golf, Committee Procedures, Section 8](#), effective January 2019, are in effect:

Immovable Obstructions (Sprinklers) Close to Putting Green,
Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee
Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule F-5

Summary: Line of play relief allowed from immovable
obstructions when ball lies in the fringe.

Aeration Holes

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

Summary: Relief allowed when ball is in aeration hole. Drop
when through the green, place when on the green.

Dropping Zones

Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee
Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule E-1

Summary: The committee has established dropping zones.
These dropping zones may or not be marked by the course.
If they are marked by the course, please use those marked
dropping zones. For dropping zones that are not marked
please use the following:

Hole 3 – drop in the fairway directly in front of the lake

Hole 4 – drop in the rough directly in front of the red
tee box

Hole 5 – drop across the cart path to the east of the
Hole 6 stone marker.

Hole 8 – drop in the fairway near the cart path over the
bridge to the east of the sprinkler box.

Hole 15 – For relief when ball lies near the fence
between the painted lines on the cart path drop in the
fairway near the southmost line on the cart path

Hole 16-A – For relief from the marked GUR area near
the fence drop in the rough behind the manhole.

Hole 16-B – For relief when the ball lies near the fence
to the north of the green drop near the tree just south
of the cart path

No other dropping zones may be used, even if they are marked. If you see one, inform one of the officers and it will be considered.

Note 1: All drops are under penalty of one stroke except the GUR drop on #16.

Note 2: When dropped, ball must remain in dropping zone, if marked.

[Penalty Areas – Playing ball provisionally under rule 17-1](#)

Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule B-3

Summary: Player may hit provisional ball on Hole #18 at Broken Tee, if original ball enters penalty area on left. If original ball is found in the penalty area you may play it as it lies. Otherwise, play the provisional. Options normally available in penalty area are no longer available. If the original ball is found outside the penalty area you must play the original ball and pick up the provisional.

[Cleaning Ball](#)

Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule E-2

Summary: On day of competition the Committee may authorize lift, clean and place if conditions warrant.

[Alternative to Stroke and Distance for Lost Ball or Ball Out of Bounds](#)

Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule E-5

Summary: The MARS Golf Club has implemented this Local Rule in order to help our Pace of Play. This rule avoids the necessity of returning to the previous spot when a ball is judged to be lost or out of bounds. The dropping instructions are complicated. Be sure you review the instructions.

4. Rule [9.1](#) states that the ball must be played as it lies, except as otherwise provided in the Rules. Our exceptions:

- a. Rocks and gravel are to be treated as “abnormal course condition”, including the rough, if hitting the ball could result in club damage from a rock or gravel or there is a safety concern due to flying rocks. Relief may be granted if agreed to by an opponent or another member of the foursome. In no case, should relief be granted just to avoid a non-marked bare lie. Determine the nearest point of relief and “take a drop” per rule [16](#).
- b. If the ball comes to rest in a divot or bare area in the fairway of the hole being played, the golfer may move the ball to the nearest acceptable lie, no nearer the hole, using the club head. Once the golfer has addressed the ball, all the Rules of Golf as adjusted by our league rules apply. This does not apply to divots in marked Dropping Zones.

5. The 2019 Rules of Golf allow courses to mark severe rough as penalty areas. The MARS league has adopted this philosophy. This was done to lessen the penalty due to a lost ball to encourage faster play. These areas are not marked. Use your best judgment. If you are in the penalty area or “virtually certain” that you are in the penalty area Rule [17.1](#) applies. The holes currently identified are:

Hole 6 from the right of the cart path to the fence.

Hole 17 to the right of the cart path

6. Rule [3.3c](#), Failure to Hole Out, states that if a competitor fails to hole out at any hole and does not correct his mistake before he makes a stroke on the next teeing ground or, in the case of the last hole of the round, before he leaves the putting green, he is disqualified. Our exception:

To speed up play, all putts within the leather (on a normal putter) are good. The longest putter in a foursome may be used for all golfers in that foursome. Any part of the ball between the putter head and where the grip meets the shaft suffices.

And remember - Improving your lie is not allowed except as defined in number 4 above!