



## HARD CARD

### RULES OF PLAY

Play is governed by the Rules of Golf and its Interpretations and, where applicable, by the following Local Rules and Conditions, subject to changes or amendments by the U.S. Kids Golf (USKG) Rules Committee.

**The Game of Golf:** Rule 1.1 Golf is played by striking your ball with a club, and each hole starts from the teeing area and ends when your ball is holed on the putting green. You should normally play the course as you find it and play your ball as it lies.

**Disqualification Modification:** In the event a player incurs a breach of the Rules of Golf that would result in disqualification the player will receive the maximum score of 10 on any hole where the breach occurs, under the USKG Disqualification Policy (DQP). In situations where the round or hole has been completed, the Rules Committee will determine which hole to apply the 10 penalty.

**Maximum Strokes:** A player shall take no more than 10 strokes on a hole. After hitting their ninth stroke, a player **must** pick up their ball and declare a 10 to their marker; then wait for the other players in the group to complete the hole. The maximum score of 10 includes any penalties a player may incur on a hole. (All missed attempts at the ball count towards the player score).

**Time of Starting/Late to Tee:** A player must start at his or her starting time, Rule 5.3a. If a player arrives at the tee more than five minutes after his or her starting time, a DQP penalty (10 strokes) is applied to that hole and all other holes missed. Players may not join a group during play of a hole; they must join them on the next tee.

**Lost Ball or Out of Bounds:** Rule 18, when a ball is lost outside a penalty area or comes to rest out of bounds, stroke-and-distance will apply with a one stroke penalty.

**Penalty Area:** Rule 17, Penalty area which are bodies of water or areas defined by the Committee where a ball is unable to be played. Penalty areas are defined as red or yellow. This affects your relief options (see Rule 17.1d). Rule 17.1b, you may play ball as it lies in the penalty area without a penalty or take penalty relief with a one stroke penalty applied (see Rule 17.2 Options after playing your ball from penalty area).

**Unplayable Ball:** Rule 19, Unplayable ball relief is allowed anywhere on the course, except in a penalty area. A player may take unplayable ball relief using one of the following, stroke-and-distance, back on the line relief, or lateral relief. In each case a one stroke penalty will be applied.

**Practice Between Holes:** Practice between holes is NOT authorized in stroke play competitions (Rule 5.5b - Committee Procedures). Penalty: Two strokes per hole at which any breach occurred.

**Pace of Play:** Each player must play without undue delay, which is defined as taking no more than 40 seconds to play a shot. Players who are first to play from a given area (tee, fairway, green, etc.) will have 10 extra seconds to play their shot. Caddies are asked to please refrain from over-coaching the player. It is the caddie's duty to help the player hit each shot without undue delay.

All groups must maintain their position with the group in front of them. A group is out of position if they are more than 14 minutes behind the group in front of them with their flag in time. Also, your scorecard has your flag in time for the completion of every hole. If you are above your flag in time on the scorecard and more than 14 minutes behind the group in front of you, consider your group out of position. Any group that reaches the scoring table **MORE THAN** 17 minutes behind the group in front of them is subject to a one-stroke penalty.

At the event you will always see U.S. KIDS staff roaming the golf course helping with the pace of play, rulings, and customer service. If a player needs a ruling, please flag down a staff member or you may call the Tournament Director or staff member at any time, phone numbers will be given at starting tee. In the unlikely event they are not in the area or able to respond to the call please do not wait and hold up play. Play **two balls** under rule 20.1c3 and the U.S. Kids committee will render the ruling in the scoring area.

**Distance Measuring Device:** A player may obtain distance information by use of a distance-measuring device. If, during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance measuring device to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his/her play (e.g., slope, elevation change, wind speed, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 4.3. First breach: Two-stroke penalty; Each subsequent breach: DQP Penalty. Cell Phones & Electronic Devices: Cell phones may only be used to obtain rules information from the Committee, in emergency situations, or to seek medical help. Tablets, headphones, cameras, and other electronic devices may not be used during play. First offense: Warning; Subsequent Offenses: Code of Conduct breach penalty.

## THE COURSE

**Out of Bounds:** Where white stakes or fence posts are used, the nearest inside points at ground level define out of bounds. When out of bounds is defined by a white line on the ground, the line itself is out of bounds. A ball coming to rest on or crossing any public road is considered out of bounds, even if it comes to rest on another part of the golf course. Any additional methods to designate OB will be listed on a local rules sheet.

**Penalty Areas:** Penalty Areas are either red or yellow. Penalty Areas are defined by red/ yellow lines or designated by red/yellow stakes. Stakes are movable obstructions. In the absence of lines, stakes define the Penalty Area. If a body of water is not marked, the edge of the Penalty Area is where the ground begins to slope down to the water's edge.

**Dropping Zone:** A dropping zone is an optional relief area enclosed by a white line having the words "drop zone" or "DZ" printed inside it. A dropping zone is not ground under repair. The line itself is in the dropping zone. A ball that is dropped within the dropping zone must remain within the dropping zone to be in play.

**Ground Under Repair:** Enclosed, white-lined areas define ground under repair. The white lines are considered to be in the ground under repair. Other areas of ground under repair, even though not marked include: French drains (trenches filled with stones or like), fire ant beds and mounds caused by burrowing animals.

**Sod Seams: Relief for Lie of Ball Only:** Sod seams are ground under repair in the General Area and all seams in a given area are deemed to be the same seam. However, relief is available for lie of ball only and not for stance or swing.

**No Play Zones:** The committee may designate areas such as flower beds as No Play Zones. Relief from these areas is mandatory. Penalty for playing from a No Play Zone is the General Stroke Play penalty of 2 strokes.

## CADDIES

Caddies are permitted at all age division levels. A "caddie" is one who assists the player in accordance with the Rules, which may include carrying (transporting) or handling the player's club during play. Along with the use of caddies comes with the following strict guidelines and policies that all players and caddies will be held to.

### **CADDIES ALLOWED TO:**

- Caddies will be allowed to carry the player's clubs and equipment, or a pull cart may be used.
- Caddies will be allowed to search for player's golf balls.
- Caddies will be allowed to clean a player's golf ball.
- Caddies will be able to give player's advice, **NOT** coach (Pace of Play will be enforced)
- **ALL 9-HOLE PLAYER CADDIES** may rent a cart for use during play. The caddie may use the cart to shuttle their player between holes. After reaching the tee, the player cannot ride and must walk the entire hole. **Exception to the rule:** Tournament director may sometimes allow an age group to ride during play. All golf carts are first come, first served. Hope for the best, but always plan that you both may have to walk. **Please do not yell at the golf shop staff if they run out of carts.**
- **ALL 18-HOLE PLAYER CADDIES:** **May not** use golf carts. Pull carts are allowed unless prohibited by the host facility. Additionally, anyone with an ADA or medical condition will need to bring the card or note from their doctor **each time** you need to caddie with a cart. The host facility will be given instructions that 18-hole caddies may not rent a cart unless they have their ADA Card or doctor's note with them. **PENALTY:** Two strokes per hole at which any breach occurred, up to a maximum of four strokes.

### **CADDIES ARE NOT ALLOWED TO:**

- Deliberately stand on or close to the extended line of play behind a player while the player is taking his or her stance until stroke is made. On the putting green, the caddie may not stand on an extension of the line on either side of the ball.
- **QUESTION REGARDING COACHING:** The committee will decide what is or is not coaching. As long as there is not unnecessary delay of play, a caddie can assist a player as it states in USGA Rule 10.3

### **Breach of Policies and or rules by caddies:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense = Warning from an U.S. KIDS official
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense = **Penalty for breach Condition is:** Two strokes for each hole at which the breach occurred; maximum penalty per round is four strokes.