

2026 MEN'S ASSOCIATION LOCAL RULES

-Pace of play! Please be courteous to your fellow golfers and to those who handle the scoring. It should not take more than 4 hours to play a round of golf at the Hollows. Keep pace with the group in front of you and do not hold up the groups behind you.

-In relation to the above guideline, keep in mind rule 18.2. You now have only 3 minutes to find your ball before it is deemed lost.

-Local Rule E-5 is in effect. It is an alternative to stroke and distance for lost or out of bounds balls. If your tee shot is out of bounds or lost, you may go back and hit from the previous spot as we have done in the past. Or, under this new local rule, you can drop parallel to the spot where the ball went out of bounds or where your ball was estimated to have come to rest if it is lost, in the fairway within two clublengths to the rough, no nearer the hole. In this case you must take a two-stroke penalty. This rule does not apply to unplayable balls or those you are virtually certain have gone into a hazard. There may be certain tournaments this season where this rule will not apply. In such cases, we will let everyone know in advance.

-If a player thinks his shot may be lost (but not lost in a penalty area) or that his shot may have gone out of bounds, he may play a provisional from the previous spot in order to expedite play until the position of his original shot has been determined.

-A player may lift, clean, and place his ball within one clublength no nearer the hole in his own fairway unless stipulated beforehand in a specific round or tournament.

-The sand bunkers will be played as lift, clean, rake, and place the ball as near the original spot as possible unless stipulated beforehand in a specific round or tournament.

-In the absence of red markers, the tall grass that is not mowed will constitute a red penalty area line around all ponds. Bear in mind that upon hitting into a red penalty area, a player has 3 options: 1) He may hit from the spot in the hazard where the ball lies without penalty. 2) Under the penalty of one stroke: he may drop two clublengths from the last place the ball crossed the margin of the hazard no nearer the hole. 3) Drop a ball any distance behind the hazard keeping a straight line between the hole, the point where the ball last crossed the margin of the hazard and the spot on which the ball is dropped. In addition to these options, the Red teeing areas on Cottage #3 and Lake #2 may be played as a drop area for balls entering the hazard from the tee. The drop areas shall be treated as fairway.

-The ditch across Lake #7 and Road #8 may not have proper marking but still plays as a red penalty area. The closely mowed grass where Lake #7 & Road #8 meet plays as fairway even if the player is not in his own fairway.

-White stakes and all asphalt surfaced roads define out of bounds.

-A ball that has come to rest in an aeration hole on the green may be replaced on the nearest point of relief from the aeration hole, no nearer the cup.

-There may be times when course conditions dictate preferred lies through the green. A local rule will be deemed on such days.

-The tall grass on Cottage #4, Road #4 and Road #5 that are not mowed will be played as a red penalty area.

-Range finders that only measure distance may be used during the normal course of play and competition.

-Members may bring an occasional guest to play on the weekends, but the same guest may only play 6 times in a season without joining the Men's Association.

-Any member who signs up for a tournament and fails to show up without contacting the board will be ineligible to play in the next event (exceptions will be made in the event of an emergency).

-Not showing up for regular weekend play negatively impacts the organizers, the foursomes, and the golf course. Habitual no shows without notifying the group that you will be absent for the day will not be tolerated. Please be courteous to everyone involved and honor the tee time that you have committed to. If you cannot make it for any reason, please contact one of the organizers or the course or get in touch with a fellow member who can pass along the information on your behalf as soon as possible.

-Net double bogey is the maximum score you can take toward your handicap. We are asking for simplicity's sake when playing with the Men's Association on normal weekend days that you record a maximum of triple bogey if your handicap is 18 or less and to record a maximum of quadruple bogey if your handicap is over 18. Golf Genius will adjust your strokes properly for net double bogey.

-All other USGA, VSGA, and the Hollows local rules apply.

New Rules for Digital Scoring

Please keep in mind that part of the game of golf in competition and in maintaining a handicap is keeping an accurate scorecard. The committee and the rest of the competitors were not there to witness your round, so the only evidence they have to go on is an official scorecard attested by you and the rest of your group.

There will be two scorecards kept for the group. A digital and a physical scorecard. The physical card must be added up for the front nine, back nine, and overall. It is each player's responsibility in the group to look at the digital card and make sure that his score is accurate and that it matches the physical scorecard. A representative for the group will then turn in the physical scorecard and the mobile scoring for the group will be closed.

The digital scorecard is the official scorecard once mobile scoring is closed to the group. At this time the scores will count toward the event. If a discrepancy is discovered after mobile scoring is closed for the group, the committee will pursue resolving the discrepancy according to USGA Rule 6-6 and its related decisions attached below.

Player's Responsibility

According to Rule 6-6b, when the round or match is over, the player should double-check the scorecard and be certain the score for each hole is correct. He should resolve any points of contention with the tournament committee, then sign the card and return it to the committee as soon as possible.

Signing an Incorrect Scorecard

Under Rule 6-6d, each player is "responsible for the correctness of the score recorded for each hole on his scorecard." If a player signs physically or digitally -- known as attesting -- a card in which the score for any hole is lower than his actual performance, he is disqualified from the competition. This applies even if another person kept his score during the round. If a player signs a card in which the score for any hole is higher than his actual performance, that higher score becomes his official score for that hole.

Total Score

A player is not penalized if he turns in a scorecard in which the score of each hole is correct but the total is miscalculated. Pursuant to USGA decision 6-6d/2, the tournament committee is responsible for tabulating the total scores; the player's only responsibility is to record each hole score correctly. However, if a player attests to the correct final score, but inadvertently leaves one of the hole scores blank, he is disqualified, according to decision 6-6d/1.

Exceptions

The Exception to Rule 6-6d was introduced in 2016 to provide that a player is not disqualified for returning a lower score for a hole than actually taken if it is as a result of failing to include penalty strokes that the player did not know were incurred before returning the score card. Instead, the player incurs the penalty under the Rule that was breached and must add an additional penalty of two strokes to the relevant hole for their score card error.

While the new exception provides some leeway for players who are not aware that they have breached a Rule, it retains the importance of knowing the Rules by penalizing the player the additional two strokes for the error.

It is worth noting that the Exception to Rule 6-6d does not apply if a player has signed for a wrong score for any other reason. For example, if a player fails to notice that their marker has mistakenly put down a four on a hole when, in fact, the player had taken five strokes, the player would still be disqualified for signing for a score lower than that which was actually taken. The new Exception applies only to situations where the player has failed to include an unknown penalty.

Normal Men's Association Play for Skins on Weekends and Holidays

In accordance with the above rules; if a player does turn in an inaccurate scorecard with a lower score that affects the cut sheet, he is disqualified from the cuts for the day and all of his scores are nullified in the cuts. We are leaving leeway here to not disqualify players from the cuts in situations where they may have recorded or put down a bogey when in actuality they scored a double bogey or a double bogey when they had a triple bogey and so forth. This is because a lot of guys will mark an X on the card and pickup and go to the next hole to speed up play. Not everyone is putting everything out and we don't want a situation where someone says another player didn't putt out and they should have a triple instead of a double and they get disqualified from the cuts on holes that do not relate to their birdies and the overall results of the cut sheet itself. That being said, if a player accidentally puts a birdie down on a hole and the scorecard is closed and officially attested, and said birdie affects the cut sheet, that player will be disqualified from the cut sheet for that round and all of his scores will be nullified. In addition, the Exception to Rule 6-6d will apply to the cut sheet. If a player attests his scorecard for the cuts and it is later found that he incurred a penalty he was unaware of on a hole that affects the results of the cuts, his scorecard will be adjusted under the rules of golf and the Exception to Rule 6-6d and the cut sheet will be adjusted. In such an instance, the rest of his scores shall still count toward the cut pool and he will not be disqualified from the cuts that round.

Tournament Scoring

Once the scorecard is closed and officially attested in a tournament and verified by the tournament committee, any discrepancies will be pursued according to USGA Rules of Golf Rule 6-6. If a player at this point has put a lower score down for a hole than he actually scored, he will be disqualified from the event and also the cuts for that round. If this disqualification is the first day of a 2-day tournament, the player may participate in the cuts in the second round on the event, but the DQ still stands for the overall tournament.

Procedure for Scoring Errors

The Men's Association board does its best to create a fun environment for camaraderie and competition. We do our best to be as fair and accurate as possible, but we are human. We will make mistakes. If there is an error in scoring, it must be pointed out to the committee the day of the event, whether it be during an official Men's Association Tournament or on Normal Weekend and Holiday Play for skins, before those in charge have left the course.

Once the money has been passed out and those in charge have left, the results are final unless it is discovered that a competitor has turned in a lower score than he shot, in which case, he is disqualified from the competition and the prizes must be adjusted. There is no statute of limitations on how long after the round a correction can be made and any such correction will be adjudicated by the Rules Committee, voted on by the Men's Association Board and made public to the group. Conversely, as stated in rule 6-6 above, if a player has turned in a higher score than what he made that affects the cuts, the higher score must stand.