



2023 Summer Sports – Golf Highlighted Rules & Addendums

GENERAL RULES

1. **USGA Rules of Golf apply.** This means that “Summer Rules” are in effect.
2. **Tees.** All players play from the **GOLD** tees.
3. **Scoring.** You will be keeping someone else’s scorecard. Be sure to write down the score after each hole and sign your scorecard before turning it in. As soon as you hole out, say your score in a loud voice to the official scorekeeper. Remember, a “swing and a miss” counts as a stroke: if you swing and miss, step away from the ball before another swing is taken, especially in Unified Play.
4. **Players must walk.** All players must walk the golf course unless given specific authorization *in advance* to use a motorized golf cart by the Tournament Director.
5. **Three Minute Rule:** You have three minutes to search for your ball before adding a penalty stroke or if your ball is in a penalty area playing then you may place another ball from where you played your last shot. We recommend you play a provisional ball when you first think your ball is lost.
6. **Rangefinders are OK.** Approved electronic distance measuring devices are allowed as long as their use does not delay play.
7. **10x Rule.** There is a maximum of 10 strokes per hole. If you have not holed your 10th stroke, pick up your ball and walk the rest of the hole. Mark a score of 10x for the hole.
8. **Caddies.** Caddies may verbally assist the Athletes and Unified Partners, and they may perform all of the functions of a caddy, but may not *physically* assist the Athletes and Unified Partners (such as moving the Athletes into an aligned position.)
9. **For Unified teams:**
 - a. Penalty strokes do not affect the order of play. If you hit your ball into a water hazard or out of bounds, your partner hits the next ball.
 - b. Athletes will tee off on the odd holes, Unified Partners will tee off on the even holes.

ETIQUETTE

1. **Keep up with the group in front of you.** 9-hole rounds must be completed in 2 ½ hours or less, and 18-hole rounds must be completed in 5 hours or less. Learning how to play a golf course without delay is an important part of the Special Olympics golf experience.
2. **Play “ready” golf.** When you arrive at your ball, hit your next shot when it is safe to hit, be ready when it’s your turn to hit, take fewer practice swings, go straight to your ball when it’s safe to do so, and when at the green, leave your bag just off the fringe nearest the next tee.
3. **Be respectful.** Treat others as you want to be treated. DO NOT throw clubs, smash clubs into the ground, or curse out loud.
4. **Identify your ball.** Before you start your round, use a Sharpie to put an identifying mark on your golf ball so that you don’t mistake it for someone else’s.
5. **Putting green etiquette.** Avoid stepping on your own and your fellow competitor’s putting line, avoid stepping near the hole, be very quiet when another player is putting, stand out of the line of sight of another player, and repair your ball mark plus one other.
6. **Replace your divots.** It is up to you to take care of the beautiful golf courses that we play.
7. **Rake your bunkers.** After you hit your shot out of a bunker, be sure to rake the sand smooth.
8. **Just like a camper...** Leave the golf course better than you found it!

SAFETY

1. **Errant shots.** Yell “FORE” when your ball may come close to someone or when it leaves the hole you’re playing. When you hear “FORE,” duck and cover your head with your arms and hands.
2. **Water safety.** Stay away from the edges of the ponds.