

# MONOOSNOCK COUNTRY CLUB LOCAL RULES - 2023

All play is governed by USGA Rules of Golf. The Committee has no power to waive a Rule of Golf or waive a penalty imposed by a Rule of Golf. The following local rules are consistent with the policy set forth in the Rules of Golf by the Governing Authority of the USGA

## Hole One

1. Out of bounds beyond white stakes on left and rear of green.

## Hole Two

1. Out of bounds beyond white stakes on left.  
*Clarification – There is no relief without penalty from the chain link fence.*
2. The bark mulch and crushed stone area behind the third tee is an abnormal ground condition from which play is prohibited. If a player's ball lies in the area, or if it interferes with the player's stance or the area of his intended swing, the player must take nearest relief no closer to the hole without penalty under Rule 16-1.

Note – A player may not deem his ball lost in the brook on the right simply because he thinks the ball may be in the hazard. It must be *known or virtually certain* that the ball is in the brook. If it is not known that the ball is in the water hazard, in order for the player to proceed under Rule 17.1 there must be almost no doubt that the ball is in the hazard. Otherwise, a ball that cannot be found must be considered lost outside the hazard and the player must proceed under Rule 18.2 (Ball Lost). All available evidence must be taken into account in determining whether knowledge or virtual certainty exists, including any testimony and the physical conditions in the area around the brook. For example, if the area around the brook is firm and the grass is cut short, there exists greater certainty that the ball is in the hazard.

## Hole Three

1. Out of bounds beyond the stone wall and white stakes on left.

## Hole Four

1. Out of bounds beyond the white stakes on left and rear of green beyond the fifth tee area.

## Hole Five

1. Out of bounds on or over road and on or over parking lot.
1. All bark mulch and crushed stone in the General Area is deemed an abnormal course condition from which play is prohibited. If a player's ball lies in the area, or if it interferes with the player's stance or the area of his intended swing, the player must take nearest relief no closer to the hole without penalty under Rule 16-1.

## Hole Six

Note – A player may not deem his ball lost in the brook simply because he thinks the ball may be in the water hazard. It must be *known or virtually certain* that the ball is in the brook. If it is not known that the ball is in the water hazard, in order for the player to proceed under Rule 17.1 there must be no doubt that the ball is in the hazard. Otherwise, a ball that cannot be found must be considered lost outside the hazard and the player must proceed under rule 18.2 (Ball Lost). All available evidence must be taken into account in determining whether knowledge or virtual certainty exists, including any testimony and the physical conditions around the brook. For example, if the area around the brook is firm and the grass is cut short, there exists greater certainty that the ball is in the hazard.

## Hole Nine

1. Out of bounds on right beyond the white stakes and lines around practice green and pro shop.
2. Out of bounds on or beyond pavement behind and to the left of the green.
3. All bark mulch and crushed stone in the General Area is deemed an abnormal course condition from which play is prohibited. If a player's ball lies in the area, or if it interferes with the player's stance or the area of his intended swing, the player *must* take nearest relief no closer to the hole without penalty under Rule 16-1.

# Tournament Conditions of Competition

## 1. Suspension of Play During Tournament

When play is suspended because of unplayable conditions or other circumstances the signal is:

Discontinue Play Immediately – One prolonged note of siren.

Discontinue Play – Three consecutive notes of siren.

Resume Play – Two short notes on siren repeated.

## 2. Scorecards Signed

A scorecard returned to the committee and not signed by the marker and countersigned by the competitor shall disqualify the competitor. (See Rule 3)

In tournaments where a team plays alone, the "B" player shall serve as the marker for the "A" player.

In tournaments where two or more teams play together, the "A" players shall exchange scorecards and each shall serve as marker for the other. In individual tournaments such as the Club Championship, each competitor shall exchange cards with a fellow competitor and serve as marker for the other.

## 3. Referee

The committee appoints our Board of Directors' Tournament Committee, as referee. Their decision is final.

## 4. Order of Holes in "Shotgun" Tournament

In any "shotgun" tournament the order of holes shall be to play all front nine holes before playing the backside.

*Note – White or Green tees designate holes one through nine. Blue or Gold tees designate holes 10*

*through eighteen.* In a one-day double shotgun tournament, if one shotgun is completed and the other is

canceled, the shotgun completed shall stand. Players in the canceled shotgun will be refunded their entry fee.

# Local Rules

## Local Rule 1. Roots and Embedded Stones

All roots and embedded stones in the General Area are declared an abnormal course condition. If a root or an embedded stone in the General Area interferes with the player's stance or area of intended swing, relief without penalty may be obtained by dropping the ball within one club-length of the spot nearest to where the ball lies which is not nearer the hole and avoids interference. A ball in the rough must remain in the rough after dropping.

## Local Rule 2. Aerification Holes

If a ball comes to rest in an aerification hole, the player may, without penalty, lift the ball and clean it. In the General Area, the player shall drop the ball as near as possible to where it lay, but not nearer the hole. On the putting green, the player shall place the ball at the nearest spot not nearer the hole that avoids such situation.

## Local Rule 3. Accumulation of Leaves

When posted on the first tee, the accumulation of leaves in the General Area from tree-line to tree-line is declared as an abnormal course condition. Unless there is reasonable evidence that a ball, which cannot be found, is lost in the leaves, it must be treated as lost elsewhere and Rule 18.2 applies.

## Local Rule 4. Preferred Lies

The U.S.G.A. does not endorse preferred lies as it conflicts with the fundamental principle of playing the ball as it lies. However, because conditions are sometimes such that preferred lies would promote fair play they suggest the following as appropriate for playing preferred lies when conditions warrant it. The Committee adopts this rule and it is in effect when "Preferred Lies Fairway Only" is posted on the first tee.

A ball lying on the "fairway" of the hole being played may be marked, lifted and cleaned without penalty and placed within a club-length of the mark, not nearer the hole. The ball must stay in the fairway.

*Note – For the purpose of this rule, a ball in the fairway but not touching the rough is deemed to be in the fairway.*

When preferred lies are allowed anywhere in the General Area (except hazards), it will be posted on the first tee. When this rule is in effect a ball lying in the rough must stay in the rough, a ball lying in the fairway must stay in the fairway, and a ball on the apron of the green may **not** be placed on the green.

## Local Rule 5. Stones in Bunkers

Stones in bunkers are movable obstructions. (Relief without penalty under Rule 15.2 applies).

*Stones are by definition loose impediments. However, stones in bunkers may represent a danger to players. Therefore, under the guidelines of the U.S.G.A. the Committee has adopted this local rule.*

## Local Rule 6. Distance Measuring Devices

The use of "Distance Measuring Devices" are permitted for all play at Monoosnock. A player may obtain distance information by using a device that measures distance only. If, during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his play such as gradient, wind speed, temperature, etc, the player is in breach of Rule 4-3, for which the penalty is disqualification, regardless of whether any such additional function was actually used.

## Local Rule 7. Accidental Movement of a Ball on a Putting Green

When a player's ball lies in the putting green, there is no penalty if the ball or ball-marker is accidentally moved by the player, his partner, his opponent, or any of their caddies or equipment. The moved ball or ball-marker must be replaced.

### Local Rule 8. Bark Mulch and Crushed Stone

2. All bark mulch and crushed stone in the General Area is deemed an abnormal course condition from which play is prohibited. If a player's ball lies in the area, or if it interferes with the player's stance or the area of his intended swing, the player must take nearest relief no closer to the hole without penalty under Rule 16-1.

### Clarifications

1. The term "**General Area**" refers to the whole of the course except penalty areas, bunkers, teeing areas and putting greens. "**General Area**" basically replaces the term "Through the Green".
2. The term "**Abnormal Course Condition**" refers to any casual water, ground under repair, immovable obstruction, or animal hole.
3. Any temporary changes to local rules because of unusual conditions will be posted on the first tee. Otherwise, the local rules posted here supersede local rules posted elsewhere including the scorecards.
4. In 2019 the Rules of Golf had many changes take effect. Here are a few examples:

Under USGA **Rule 16.3** relief from an embedded ball may be taken anywhere in the General Area except when the ball lay in loose sand. In order to determine that the ball is imbedded the ball **MUST** be found. If the ball is not found the ball is lost and you must proceed according to Rule **14.6**. This was previously a local rule.

Under USGA **Rule 12.1 and 12.2** a player may repair spike marks on the green even if they are on the line of his putt. He is also not penalized for touching his line of putt as long as the line of putt is not improved by doing so. These were previously not allowed.

### Model Local Rules (MLR)

The USGA has come up with Model Local Rules (MLR). MLR's are provided as "suggestions" that may alleviate any specific problems that a specific golf course may encounter. One suggested MLR, E-5, concerns the out of bounds rules and is designed to speed up play especially on strictly public courses. MLR E-5 allows a player who's ball is OB to play that ball and defines where relief may be taken. At this time Monoosnock Country Club does NOT utilize MLR E-5 or any other of the MLR's written by the USGA.

### Penalty For Breach of a Local Rule

Match Play ---Loss of Hole  
Stroke Play---Two strokes