

2020 RULES OF PLAY (Pay4Golf18)

All rules listed below are in effect for each Pay4Golf18 events unless otherwise posted.

Contact Event Coordinator for explanation of rules or questions regarding rules of play.



- Regular men's tee will be set one tee box up from back tees at the golf course.
- Senior men's tee for participants age 60+ will be set two tee boxes up from back tees at the golf course.
- Super-Senior men's tee for participants age 70+ (contact Event Coordinator for exception to rule for participants in optional Skins Game) will be set three tee boxes up from back tees at the golf course.
 - Event coordinator reserves the right to adjust tee box depending on local golf course conditions.
- Each player may play two (2) balls off the first tee of each event.
- The maximum allowable score per hole is triple bogey. Players are required to post their score per hole, but Adjusted Gross Scores will be entered for your Score Index based on the USGA's *Net Double Bogey* rule.
- Putts within 12" of the hole may be given by another player in playing group. If not given, or putts outside given distance, must be holed out on the green. Failure to complete hole will result in score of triple bogey for hole.
- LIFT, CLEAN and PLACE at all times in the fairway no more than one club length no closer to the hole. Ball must stay in same condition. Ball must be played as it lies in rough and adjacent fairways. Event coordinator reserves the right to adjust to the general area ("through the green") depending on local golf course conditions.
- For a ball that has been IDENTIFIED by the playing group to come to rest in the tree line of the hole, participant may (1) play the ball as it lies without penalty stroke, or (2) under penalty of one stroke, LIFT, CLEAN and PLACE no more than two club lengths from the tree line no closer to the hole. Ball must be played as it lies in a hazard according to USGA rules before selecting (2). Ball must be played as it lies in adjacent rough or tree lines.
- Regardless of the situation, ball must be played as it lies in any hazard except when governed by course local rules of play. Player can move ball side to side to avoid bare spots, rocks, roots, debris no closer to the hole.
- If playing group considers lie as GROUND UNDER REPAIR including bare spots, rocks, roots, debris or trash, player may drop one club length no closer to the hole without penalty. Ball must stay in same condition.
- Bad spots on the greens and old holes not healed are considered GROUND UNDER REPAIR. Player can move ball side to side to avoid, no closer to the hole. This does NOT mean spike marks or ball marks.
- All course maintenance equipment is considered GROUND UNDER REPAIR. A ball that makes contact with equipment may be replayed at discretion of player. If a ball as it lies is obstructed by maintenance equipment, player may drop one club length no closer to the hole without penalty. Ball must stay in same condition.
- One ball rule is NOT in effect for these events.
- Play two balls if there is a question about the rules.
- All rules questions will be settled by the Event Coordinator.
- All other USGA and local rules will apply. **Please see additional Rules of Play and highlighted USGA rules.**

2020 ADDITIONAL RULES OF PLAY (Pay4Golf18)

- **Finding your ball (USGA).** To improve pace of play, golfers now have just **3 Minutes** to search for a missing ball.
- **Movement of ball (USGA).** If you accidentally cause ball to move on the green, hit your ball with backswing, or move your ball while marking it, there is no penalty as long as you return the ball to its original spot.
- **Spike Marks (USGA).** Repair of almost any damage on the green, including spike marks and shoe damage, is allowed. Exceptions that remain are aeration holes, natural surface imperfections and natural wear of a hole.
- **Playing from “penalty area” (USGA).** You can touch or move loose impediments as well as touch the ground with your hand or a club during a practice swing, so long as you’re not improving the conditions for the stroke.
- **Playing a shot from a bunker (USGA).** You may touch or move loose impediments from a bunker. You still can’t deliberately touch the sand with your hand, club, rake or other objects to test its condition, and touching the sand with a club during a practice swing or in the backswing of a stroke is also still prohibited.
- **Out of Bounds (USGA).** As an alternative to the stroke-and-distance penalty for lost balls or shots hit out-of-bounds, golfers can drop a ball anywhere between where the original ball was believed to come to rest (or went out-of-bounds) and just into the edge of the fairway, but no nearer the hole. With this option, you must add two strokes to your score, but you can play on instead of returning to the tee or the spot you hit your last shot.
- **Relief for an embedded ball (USGA).** Players will take a drop within one club-length of the spot where the ball was embedded anywhere in the “general area” EXCEPT when embedded in sand.
- **Relief outside a bunker from an unplayable ball in the sand.** Under penalty of two strokes, a player who has an unplayable lie or an embedded ball in the sand may take a drop on the line of play outside the bunker.
- **Play Ready Golf.** Start each round on time, and play continuously at a prompt pace during each hole until your round is completed. It is recommended that you make the stroke in no more than 40 seconds, and usually more quickly than that. **Our expectations are for the round to be completed in 4 hours and 30 minutes.**
- **Score Index.** The Score Index used each week is similar to the World Handicap System, but is NOT an official USGA Handicap. We only use rounds played in Pay4Golf18 events as a basis for your Score Index. Your Score Index is applied to the golf course slope rating and course rating for calculating course adjustment. Your Score Index will update automatically with each round played in a Pay4Golf18 event.
- **Posted Score.** By factoring in Par and Stroke Index values under the USGA’s Net Double Bogey procedure, adjusted hole scores will be more precise and reflective of a player’s ability. This adjusted score is used to calculate a Score Index for each event. In most cases, the Actual Score and the Posted Score are the same.
- Reference the USGA’s Net Double Bogey procedure for more information.
- Current revised Rules of Play dated 4/27/20.