

**Caddie Bibs:** As a condition of competition, official U.S. Kids Golf caddie bibs must be worn by all caddies to properly distinguish caddies and spectators. Failure to wear a caddie bib will be considered a code of conduct violation.

**Pace of Play:** Each player must play without undue delay, which is defined as taking no more than 45 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.

The pace of play card system may be implemented to determine when groups are behind time or out of position. Please refer to [www.uskidsgolf.com](http://www.uskidsgolf.com) for information.

**Signals for Suspension and Resumption of Play:** If play is suspended by one long siren or horn blast or verbal direction by a Rules Committee member, the player must immediately discontinue play and look for shelter. All practice areas are closed until the Committee has declared them open for use. Penalty for breach of this rule is a 10 on the hole where the infraction occurred. If the player is between holes, the penalty applies to the last hole played.

Suspension of play for reasons other than dangerous situations (darkness, fog, etc.) will be made with three short blasts of a horn. Players in a group may decide whether to finish the hole they are playing but they may not start another hole. The choice to finish the hole is an individual decision. A player within the group may choose to finish the hole while others choose to wait until play has resumed.

It is the player's responsibility to be ready when play resumes. It will be signaled by two short siren blasts repeated or verbal direction. All players failing to start play on time after a delay will be assessed a score of 10 on that and any subsequent holes on which their group has already begun play.

Players may discontinue play and seek shelter if they believe there is dangerous weather (lightning, tornado, hurricane, etc.) regardless of whether a siren has been heard. The player must report to the committee as soon as practical. Bad weather (rain, wind, temperature extremes etc.) is not itself a good reason for discontinuing play. The Rules Committee makes all decisions regarding delays and/or cancellations. The intention is to play the event on its scheduled day.

**Safety Announcement:** Participation during tournament play can be dangerous. A player may discontinue play if he believes there are dangerous weather conditions (lightning, tornado, hurricane, etc.) or other good reason such as illness. Seek shelter or medical help when these conditions arise. Please be aware of others near you at all times on the course and practice area. It is possible that you may get struck by a club or ball hit by someone else. When riding in a golf cart, please read and follow the manufacturer's safety notices at all times. Riding in a cart or being struck with a club or ball can cause serious injury or death. When attending event related functions such as opening ceremonies, awards presentations, pool parties, etc., please use extreme caution and be mindful of how your or your children's actions may affect others in close proximity. While necessary precautions are taken to ensure everyone's safety, it is critical that we all work together to provide a safe and fun environment for all in attendance. You may use a cell phone to call for medical help at any time during the event.

*U.S. Kids Golf reserves the right to change the Rules & Regulations prior to or during any event.*

## REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RULES & REGULATIONS

◇ Play is governed by the Rules of Golf and its Decisions and, where applicable, by the following Local Rules, Conditions, and Definitions, subject to changes or amendments by the U.S. Kids Golf Rules Committee. Appendix I refers to the Appendix of Local Rules and Conditions of the Competition in the Rules of Golf Book.

**Time of Starting/Late to Tee:** If a player arrives at his tee, ready to play, within five minutes after his starting time, the penalty for failure to start on time is two strokes at the first hole. If a player arrives at the tee more than five minutes after his starting time, he will receive a 10 on that hole and any future holes missed. Players may not join a group during play of a hole; they must join them on the next tee.

**Ten Shot Rule (9-hole age groups only):** A player shall take no more than 10 strokes on a hole. Once a 10 is reached, a player must pick up their ball and wait for the other players in the group to complete the hole.

**Marking & Replacing:** Caddies have blanket authorization to mark and replace the player's ball on the putting green only.

**Accidental Movement of Ball on Putting Green:** Rules 18-2, 18-3, and 20-1 are modified as follows: When a player's ball lies on 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 as provided in Rules 18-2, 18-3, and 20-1. This Local Rule applies only when the player's ball or ball-marker lies on the putting green and any movement is accidental. Note: If it is determined that a player's ball on the putting green was moved as a result of wind, water or some other natural cause such as the effects of gravity, the ball must be played as it lies from its new location. A ball-marker moved in such circumstances is replaced.

**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 14-3. Penalty for first breach of Rule is two strokes and any subsequent offense is disqualification (score of 10 on any hole used).

**Electronic Devices/Rules Hotline:** Cell phones, headphones, cameras, and the like may not be used during play. First offense: Warning; Second offense: Disqualification. If during your round you are in need of a ruling or rules official assistance, please call the tournament rules hotline. This number can be found on your local rules sheet. Cell phones may be used by a player or caddie to contact the rules hotline or in emergency situations only. Use of cell phone/apps as a distance-measuring device/GPS is prohibited.

**Modification of Score Card Penalty:** If a competitor returns a score for any hole lower than actually taken due to failure to include one or more penalty strokes that, before returning his score card, he did not know he had incurred, he is not disqualified. In such circumstances, the competitor incurs the penalty prescribed by the applicable Rule, but there is no additional penalty for breach of Rule 6-6d. This Exception does not apply when the applicable penalty is disqualification from the competition.

**Tobacco & Alcohol:** Tobacco and alcohol use by players or caddies, including the use of electronic cigarettes is not permitted during the event. First offense: Warning; Second offense: Disqualification.

**Golf Balls:** It is a condition of the competition that players must use a brand of ball on the current USGA List of Conforming Golf Balls. Penalty: Score of 10 on each hole where the infraction occurred.

**Practice Between Holes:** Practice between holes is NOT authorized in stroke play competitions. Reference Rule 7-2 and Note 2. Penalty: Two strokes per hole at which any breach occurred. In the event of a breach between the play of two holes, the penalty applies to the next hole.

**Disqualification Policy:** In the case that a player incurs a breach that would normally result in a disqualification, the player will receive a maximum score of 10 on any hole where the infraction occurs. In situations where the round or hole has been completed, the Rules Committee will determine where to apply the score of 10 penalty. For situations where a disqualification breach has occurred on multiple occasions, the penalty could apply to each hole. Exceptions: A player or his caddie may be disqualified for code of conduct violations, unauthorized use of electronic devices and tobacco/alcohol. Players in 18-hole age groups that invoke this rule may still compete in the Championship and be eligible for Priority Status, but will not be eligible to win a trophy or be submitted in the final results to Junior Golf Scoreboard.

**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.

**Water Hazards:** Defined by yellow lines and designated by yellow stakes that are moveable obstructions. In the absence of lines, stakes both identify & define the hazard.

**Lateral Water Hazards:** Defined by red lines and designated by red stakes that are moveable obstructions. In the absence of lines, stakes both identify & define the hazard.

**Dropping Zone:** A “dropping zone” is an area enclosed by a white line having the words “dropping zone” or “DZ” printed outside it. A “dropping zone” is not ground under repair. The line itself is in the “dropping zone”. A ball that is dropped within the zone and rolls outside the line is “in play” and should not be redropped.

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

**Flower Beds Identified by Blue Stakes:** To be treated as ground under repair. Relief is mandatory.

**Sod Seams for Lie of Ball Only:** To be treated as ground under repair through the green. All seams in a given area are deemed to be the same seam. See Appendix I, Page 145.

**Embedded Ball:** The “Embedded Ball Rule” as written in Appendix I, Page 142-143, is in effect “through the green.”

**Dress Code:** Only acceptable golf attire is permitted. PLAYERS AND CADDIES are prohibited from wearing shoes with metal spikes, short shorts, swimwear, denim of any kind, t-shirts, or tank tops. Shirts must be tucked in at all times. Those not appropriately attired will not be permitted to participate.

**Stipulated/Final Round:** The final round for all events will consist of two stipulated rounds. 9-hole competitors will play one 5-hole and one 4-hole stipulated round and 18-hole competitors will play two 9-hole stipulated rounds. If a flight has split tees and the final round is reduced, the flight will be split into A and B flights. Only the A flight players will be eligible to win the championship.

**Result of the Competition:** When all the scores have been posted on the official scoreboard and approved by U.S. Kids Golf, the result of the competition is deemed to have been officially announced.

**How to Decide Ties:** Ties for 1st place will be broken with a sudden death playoff. If weather or darkness prevents a sudden death playoff, the winner will be decided by a scorecard playoff using the score on the final round of competition.

If the tie is not broken, the winner is determined on the basis of the last nine holes, last six holes, last three holes and finally the last hole. If the players are still tied, continue backwards from the last hole until a winner is determined. For 18-hole players, the “last nine holes, last six holes, etc.” is considered to be holes 10-18, 13-18, etc. Ties for all other awards will not be broken.

**Code of Conduct:** Violations include: abusive language, club throwing, cheating, disrespect of volunteers or officials, abuse to the golf course or the facilities, littering, or any other conduct unbecoming of a player. U.S. Kids Golf reserves the right to dismiss any player, caddie or spectator at any time for any reason during the event. Repeated violations may lead to rejection of future entries.

**Spectator Policy:** Spectators renting carts must stay on the path at all times and remain behind the players being watched. Spectators may not give players advice during the round. Spectators are not permitted to walk in the fairway or on the greens. First offense: Warning, Second offense: Removal from the golf course.

**Caddie Use of Carts:** Players must walk during play of each hole.

9-hole players' caddies may rent a cart for use during play. 9-hole players may be shuttled between holes, but must walk from tee to green. After reaching the tee, players cannot ride and must walk the entire hole. The caddie may leave the bag on the cart or carry it on the course with the player when needed. In no case will carts be allowed off the path. Penalty: Two strokes per hole at which any breach occurred; maximum penalty per round: Four strokes.

18-hole players and caddies may not use carts unless approved by the Tournament Director in extreme situations. Penalty: Two strokes per hole at which any breach occurred; maximum penalty per round: Four strokes.

In the event of a breach between the play of two holes, the penalty applies to the next hole.

**Cart Policy:** It is at the discretion of the host golf course as to whether carts will be available. A valid driver's license is required to operate a golf cart. Carts must be operated in accordance with the manufacturer's guidelines. Passengers must be seated inside the cart at all times. In no case will carts be allowed off of the cart path. First offense: Warning; Second offense: Removal from the golf course.

**Pull Carts:** Pull carts are allowed for use unless prohibited by the golf course.

**Caddie Policy:** Players eight years old and younger must be accompanied by someone fifteen years of age or older to serve as their caddie. All players are encouraged to have caddies and each caddie starts with GREEN CARD status. If a caddie disrupts others during play and a WRITTEN COMPLAINT is filed, a YELLOW CARD warning will be given to the caddie. If a second WRITTEN COMPLAINT is filed against the same caddie by a different person, the caddie will receive a RED CARD and caddie privileges will be revoked. Caddies may only be reissued GREEN CARD status if approved by the USKG Tournament Players Association. (See website for details)

It is recommended that caddies complete the Second-Goal Parent online course at the reduced rate of \$15.00. A \$25.00 coupon code towards any future U.S. Kids Golf tournament will be sent upon successful completion. (See website for details)