

# 2025 QUAIL CREEK JOINT HARDCARD LOCAL RULES and TERMS OF THE COMPETITION

The Rules of Golf, as approved by the USGA and the R&A Rules Ltd., are in effect. Local Rules and Terms of the Competition on this Hard Card are also in effect and govern play at all QCMGA, QCLGA, QCVGA, QC9LGA, and Couples competitions. Complete text of the Rules and Local Rules may be found in the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf, effective January 2023. *Model Local Rules* may be found in Committee Procedures: Section 8. When the provisions of these Rules and Conditions conflict with other Quail Creek rules, these provisions will prevail. Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule is the general penalty: Match Play – Loss of Hole; Stroke Play – Two Strokes.

## TERMS OF THE COMPETITION

**CODE OF CONDUCT - Rule 1.2:** Players are expected to act with integrity in the spirit of the game by showing consideration to others and taking care of the course. The use of abusive language, the throwing of clubs or other disruptive behavior, contrary to good conduct, will not be tolerated.

**PACE OF PLAY – Rule 5.6:** A player must not unreasonably delay play. A round of golf is meant to be played at a prompt pace.

**HANDICAPS – Rule 3.3:** The Committee is responsible for calculating the player's handicap strokes for the competition and reserves the right to adjust a player's handicap or decline their entry based upon previous performances.

**SCORECARDS RETURNED:** The scorecards are deemed to have been returned once both cards have been given to the Committee and the score has been posted on the official scoreboard. The scorecard is the official record of the score for the round. A discrepancy between hole scores will be resolved by recording the higher of the two scores on the hole as the correct score for the hole.

**CLOSE OF COMPETITION:** The competition is closed when all scores have been approved by the Committee and the results have been officially announced.

**TIES:** When a play-off is not feasible, ties shall be broken using the USGA recommended method of matching scorecards as prescribed in Committee Procedures: Section 5A (6). The last nine holes are deemed to be holes 10 through 18 of the Course being played.

## LOCAL RULES

### OUT OF BOUNDS – Rule 18.2

Defined by the course-side edge at ground level of boundary walls, perimeter fence posts, public-use roads, white stakes, and/or white connecting lines. A ball that comes to rest beyond the boundary of the hole being played is out of bounds even though it may lie on another part of the course. All paved areas beyond Coyote #9 green (Grill, Pro Shop, Wedding facilities) are out of bounds. The course side edge of the curb defines the OB.

**Model Local Rule E-5** is in effect for a ball lost or out-of-bounds.

**Model Local Rule E-9:** Quail Creek private property is out of bounds and is a “no play zone”. If the player's ball is on the Course and anything in the no play zone, other than boundary objects, interferes with the player's area of intended stance or swing, the player must take free relief under Rule 16.1f(2). The player must not play the ball as it lies.

### ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITIONS – Rule 16.1

**GROUND UNDER REPAIR:** When marked, the areas will be enclosed by white lines or stakes.

**GROUND UNDER REPAIR – NO PLAY ZONES:** *When marked, the area will be identified by white stakes with blue tops.*

**WHITE-LINED AREAS TIED TO AN OBSTRUCTION:** Share the same status as the obstruction.

**ADJACENT OBSTRUCTIONS:** Immovable obstructions adjacent to another immovable obstruction are a part of the same obstruction.

**TURF DAMAGED BY ANIMAL DIGGING: Model Local Rule F-10:** In the General Area, areas of damage are treated as ground under repair from which relief is allowed under Rule 16.1b.

**PREPARED ROCK:** An area of rock closely arranged for a functional purpose (e.g. drainage/erosion control, decoration) is an immovable obstruction.

**TREE WELLS:** The wells of the trees marked with a **green ribbon** are deemed an abnormal course condition. Free relief, from the **tree well only**, for stance, area of intended swing, and lie of the ball is allowed under Rule 16.1b. If the only interference is the tree, free relief is **not** allowed under this Local Rule.

**EROSION:** Areas of erosion in the desert are common in the Southwest and are not considered an abnormal course condition. Free relief will not be granted for interference from such areas.

**SEAMS OF CUT TURF: Model Local Rule F-7:** If a player's ball lies in or touches a seam of cut turf or a seam interferes with the player's area of intended swing:

- Ball in General Area. The player may take relief under Rule 16.1b (Drop).
- Ball on Putting Green. The player may take relief under Rule 16.1d (Place).

**But** interference does not exist if the seam only interferes with the player's *stance*.

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**IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS CLOSE TO PUTTING GREENS: Model Local Rule F-5:** When immovable obstructions are close to the putting green and on the line of play, the player may take relief under Rule 16.1b (DROP) for a ball in the General Area if an immovable obstruction is:

On the line of play, **and is** Within two club-lengths of the putting green, **and** Within two club-lengths of the ball.

Exception: There is no relief under this Local Rule if the player chooses a line of play that is clearly unreasonable.

**AERATION HOLES: Model Local Rule E-4:** If a player's ball lies in or touches an aeration hole:

- In the General Area: The player may take relief under Rule 16.1b (DROP).
- On the Putting Green: The player may take relief under Rule 16.1d (PLACE).

But interference does not exist for the player's stance, or on the putting green on the player's line of play.

**PENALTY AREAS – Rule 17:** A penalty area which is defined on only one side extends to out-of-bounds; in the absence of out-of-bounds, the penalty area extends to infinity.

**Model Local Rule B-2.2:** If a player's ball is in a penalty area, including when it is known or virtually certain to be in a penalty area even though not found, the player may take relief using one of the options under Rule 17.1d, each for one penalty stroke. Or, if the ball last crossed the edge of a red penalty area that coincides with a boundary of the course (**Quail #3**), as an extra relief option for one penalty stroke, the player may drop the original ball or another ball on the opposite side of the penalty area, equidistant from the hole.

Desert areas and washes are not penalty areas unless marked as such.

**Dropping Zone: Quail #8:** A zone is located forward of the Copper/Topaz tees along the cart path.

### **BUNKERS:**

**Flooded: Model Local Rule F-16:** A flooded bunker is ground under repair in the general area. It is not treated as a bunker during the round. A flooded bunker is defined as a bunker full of water from which the player cannot take proper relief in the bunker. If a player's ball lies in or touches this ground under repair or the ground under repair interferes with the player's stance or area of intended swing, the player may take free relief under Rule 16.1b. All other bunkers on the course, whether they contain temporary water or not, are still bunkers for all purposes under the Rules.

**Furrows:** Areas in bunkers where sand has been removed by the movement of water resulting in furrows through the sand are ground under repair. The player may take free relief from the furrow at the nearest point of relief no nearer the hole and in the bunker.

**INTEGRAL OBJECTS:** The rock wall in front of RR #9 green is an integral object. Integral objects also include cables, rods, wires, and wrappings when closely attached to trees; artificial walls or pilings when located in penalty areas or in/or adjacent to bunkers; and bunker liners. An exposed bunker liner is ground under repair, but interference does not exist if the liner interferes only with the player's stance. There is no free relief from an integral object.

**When the Committee feels that the conditions of the golf course are such that a fair and equitable round cannot be played, they may invoke either one of the following Rules:**

**LIFT, CLEAN AND REPLACE (Cleaning the Ball):** When a player's ball lies in the general area, the ball may be lifted cleaned and replaced without penalty. The player must mark the spot before lifting the ball (Rule 14.1) and the ball must be replaced on its original spot (Rule 14.2). The ball is in play when it has been replaced. (MLR E-2)

**Or**

**LIFT, CLEAN AND PLACE (Preferred Lies):** When a player's ball lies in a part of the general area cut to fairway height or less, the player may take free relief once by placing the original ball or another ball in and playing from this relief area:  
Reference Point: Spot of the original ball. Size of Relief Area Measured from Reference Point: One club length from the reference point not nearer the hole and in the general area. In proceeding under this Local Rule, the player must choose a spot to place the ball and use the procedure for replacing the ball under Rules 14.2b(2) and 14.2e. The ball is in play when it has been placed. (MLR E-3)

**The Committee:** Quail Creek Joint Rules Committee

Event Committees: Tournament Managers, Tournament and/or Rules Chairs.