Local Rules and Conditions of the Competition

Sycamore Springs Golf Course - Sectional / District Tournaments

The Rules of the United States Golf Association govern play. The "Local Rules and Conditions of Competition for USGA is in effect for this event, as well as the additional rules by the OHSAA and Local Rules and Conditions noted below.

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, THE PENALTY FOR BREACH OF A LOCAL RULE OR CONDITION IS TWO STROKES.

1. **USGA** rules govern play except where superseded by Local Rules.

2. **Format** - Stroke play a stipulated round of 18 holes, Play from **Blue** tees

3. **The note to Rule 6-3** is in effect: The player must start at the time established by the Committee. This means if your tee time is 9:00am you must be on the tee at 9:00am not 9:00:01**.**

4. **Out of Bounds** – Property line fence and white stakes indicate out of bounds

5. **Pace of Play** - for each round will be 4:30 hours. Refer to separate Pace of Play Policy.

6. **Embedded ball** rule is in effect through the green.

7. **Ground under repair** - marked with white lines / stakes / straw. Severely damaged areas of the course caused by non-burrowing animals (geese/skunks) are played as ground under repair.

8. **Flower Beds** - mulched and newly seeded areas mandatory relief.

9. **Drop Zones**: all drop zones are white circles
   #1 left of green
   #8 front of forward tees
   #14 (long left and right) the edge of the cart path closest to the creek indicates the hazard line. It is played as a red hazard. **Please use the drop zones for each side of the green closest to your point of entry into the hazard.**

10. **Rule 3-3: If you are in doubt** as to procedure or a rules situation, Invoke rule 3-3. Play out your original ball and a second ball taking your relief. Must declare which ball you wish to score with (if rules permit) to your marker before any action is taken. OR ask a coach to call an official. Record both scores and **before signing your card** discuss with the rules committee or at the scoring area, your situation.

11. **Spectators** are **NOT** allowed any conversation with players and **MUST** stay on cart paths.

12. **Coaching:** The 2 school **designated coaches ONLY may** speak with his/her players, without any delay of play.
    Coaches are permitted to physically stand on the green. Coaches may not enter any sand bunker until their player has played
    out of the sand bunker. Coaches are permitted to enter the bunker after the player has played their shot to rake the bunker.

13. **Caddies** are not permitted during the tournament. Participants will be disqualified if any person assists by caddying or if the participant rides in any type of vehicle. EXCEPTION: A medically authorized waiver is required for the use of a vehicle. A copy of the doctor's statement must be filed with the OHSAA and the OHSAA authorization shown to the referee.

14. **Conduct -** A two-stroke penalty shall be assessed for unsporting conduct. Unsporting conduct shall include but not be limited to club throwing, willful acts which damage property or equipment on the course, use abusive language, profanity, obscenities, and other unsporting conduct as determined by the Golf Rules Committee. Penalties imposed may result in disqualification.

15. **Scoring area** is defined as the shelter house/pavilion between # 1 tee and # 9 green. Player and marker should sign the card, reviewing their Hole-by-Hole Score. Both the player and marker MUST be present when their scorecard is turned in to Scorer. **Be sure to tell the scorer if you have any issues that must be brought to the attention of the committee! Once you leave the scoring area all scores are final. All writing must be legible!!**

16. **Team Score** shall be determined by totaling the scores of the 4 players with the fewest strokes for the match. The team with the fewest number of strokes is the winner.

17. **Ties:** Ties that affect the number of qualifiers shall be resolved by playing an additional hole or holes until the tie is broken. If a tie does not affect the number of qualifiers:

    a. Team ties to determine order of play in the next tournament will be broken by: better5th score, better 4th score, better 3rd score, better 2nd score, better first score, coin toss.

    b. Individual ties will use the USGA tiebreaker based on the last 9, 6, 3, 1, holes played versus par. OHSAA tournaments will designate holes 10-18 as the last holes regardless of the starting hole.

Rules Committee: The Rules Committee will consist of the USGA Rules Official, the Tournament Director, Assistant Tournament Director, and Course Manager. All Rulings of the Rules Committee will be Final.

Rule changes in effect at Sycamore Springs Golf Course (effective 2025)

#1 – Left side – out of bounds
#7 – Maintenance barn area – out of bounds
#9 – The concrete/black top areas behind the green, club house area, and cart storage barn are now considered out of bounds. There will be white stakes marking the beginning of the out of bounds at the end of #9 cart path and again at the beginning of the cart path leading to #10. If your ball passes the stakes and enters these areas it is considered out of bounds and you must play a ball, **under penalty of one stroke,** as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was last played (see Rule **20-5**).
#14 – If your ball is over the back of the green and enters the *lateral water hazard* you will have to go to the nearest drop zone and will be assessed a **one stroke penalty**. There are drop zones to the back left of the green and to the right of the cart path right of the green. If your ball enters the *lateral water hazard* to the right of the green and cart path you must proceed under *"Lateral Water Hazard"* rules listed below and will be assessed a **one stroke penalty.** Also, if your ball comes to rest on the cart path in the section between the green stakes you are entitled **free relief** and must go to the nearest drop zone. If you are willing, you may play your ball off of the cart path.

Lateral Water Hazard – RED Stake Options

1. Play the ball as it lies without penalty (Rule 13-1).
2. Proceed under the stroke and distance provision of Rule 27-1 by playing a ball as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was last played (see Rule 20-5).
3. Drop a ball behind the water hazard, keeping the point at which the original ball last crossed the margin of the water hazard directly between the hole and the spot on which the ball is dropped, with no limit to how far behind the water hazard the ball may be dropped.
4. Additional options available **only** if the ball last crossed the margin of a lateral water hazard, drop a ball outside the water hazard within two club-lengths of and not nearer the hole than (1) the point where the original ball last crossed the margin of the water hazard or (2) a point on the opposite margin of the water hazard equidistant from the hole. When proceeding under this Rule, the player may lift and clean his ball or substitute a ball.