

Major Changes to the 2019 PGA Jr. League Conditions of Play

Rules Changes by PGA Jr. League Competitions Committee

1. Captain/Coach Advice

- There will be no limitations to the amount and form of advice a Captain or Coach gives to their players so long as they do not delay play.
- It is recommended that Captains and Coaches do their best to minimize advice-giving and empower players to work together.
- **Reason For Change:** The 2018 rule was hindering the Captains and Coaches from being mentors.

2. Course Set-Up

- Introduction of split tees and new yardage recommendations.
- **Reason For Change:** In alignment with ADM and feedback received from consumers.

3. Order of Play From the Teeing Area

- Throughout local league play, Section Qualifiers and Championships: all players designated to hit from the BACK tees will play first.
- It is at the committee's discretion for Regional and National Championship.
- **Reason For Change:** In an effort to maintain safety of all players at the levels of less competitive play, the back tee should play first.

4. Playing From the Wrong Tees

- Clarification for what to do when a player plays from the wrong tees.
- No penalties at any stage of competition, unless action is intentional
- **Reason For Change:** This rule was created in alignment with the new course set-up structure and is also in alignment with Rule 6.1b.

5. 10 Player Policy Throughout Postseason

- Teams will no longer be penalized at Section Qualifiers and Section Championships if they do not have all 10 players present.
- A more relaxed Permanent Roster Replacement policy has been implemented.
- **Reason For Change:** Too many teams receiving penalties at Section Qualifiers and Section Championships.

6. Placing A Ball

- Players are now allowed to place and replace their ball as many times as they choose and by any means they choose (use of a club, dropping instead of placing).

- **Reason For Change:** There was inconsistency across leagues with this rule throughout regular season, creating a lot “gotcha” moments in postseason.
7. Interference with Condition that Grants Free Relief
 - Players are unable to receive free relief from an object that does not cause interference at the original spot of the ball.
 - **Reason For Change:** This is a new rule created to stop teams from manipulating free relief opportunities and creating relief areas further than one club-length.
 8. Pace of Play
 - Introduction of a PGA Jr. League Pace of Play policy that will be enforced throughout postseason.
 - **Reason For Change:** Introduction of policy shows the efforts being made to enhance player experience through pace of play.

Rules Changes in alignment with the USGA Rules of Golf

1. Lifting and Marking Selected Ball
 - Further clarification on the appropriate way to mark a ball and the penalty for lifting the ball prior to marking.
 - **Reason For Change:** The new verbiage removes the opportunity for the original spot of the ball to be lost, which removes the chances of an additional penalty (“gotcha” moment).
2. Indicating Line of Play on Putting Green
 - Players may touch the line of play on the putting green.
 - **Reason For Change:** In alignment with the new USGA Rules of Golf.
3. Flagstick
 - Players may opt to putt with the flagstick in.
 - **Reason For Change:** In alignment with the new USGA Rules of Golf.
4. Dropping a Ball in Taking Relief
 - In taking relief, you must let go of the ball from a location at knee height.
 - **Reason For Change:** In alignment with the new USGA Rules of Golf.

See below for further clarification surrounding each change.

Captain/Coach Advice

2018 Rule:

As PGA Jr. League is primarily a developmental program, some limited communication between Captains, Coaches and players during the round is understandable. In modification of the Note to Rule 8 of the Rules of Golf, at any point during a match, each team’s official Captain and registered Coach(es) may

give (and Players may seek) advice regarding; player safety, pace of play, rules of play and conditions of competition.

2019 Rule:

Captains and Coaches may provide coaching to their players at any time during the playing of a game. However, it is required that Captains and Coaches maintain pace of play while doing so. Additionally, it is recommended that each Captain and Coach:

- Allows players to apply what they've learned in practice while on-course with teammates
- Empowers older team members to develop leadership skills through mentorship of younger team members

Course Set-Up

2018 Rule:

For regular season matches, the host PGA or LPGA Professional is responsible for setting up the competition course. PGA Jr. League is recreational and developmental in nature. The goal is to create and encourage a fun environment for players of all abilities. The recommended distance of your regular season should not exceed 2,700 yards.

No par-5 should exceed 450 yards in regular season competitions

No par-4 should exceed 350 yards in regular season competitions

No par-3 should exceed 150 yards in regular season competitions

Please be advised that Regionals and PGA Jr. League Championship presented by National Car Rental course yardages will not exceed 2,900 yards.

2019 Rule:

At every level of play, there are two different sets of tees: The FORWARD tee and the BACK tee.

Boys 11-under and Girls 13-under will play from the FORWARD tees. Boys 12-up and Girls 14-up will play from the BACK tees.

Recommended maximum yardages for the FORWARD tees throughout Regular Season and Section Championships/Qualifiers will be 2,300 yards:

- a. Par three's should not exceed 115 yards.
- b. Par four's should not exceed 275 yards.

- c. Par five's should not exceed 375 yards.
- d. Total distance would be 2,355 yards if every hole is maxed out.

Recommended maximum yardages for the BACK tees throughout Regular Season and Section Championships/Qualifiers will be 2,600 yards:

- a. Par three's should not exceed 130 yards.
- b. Par four's should not exceed 300 yards.
- c. Par five's should not exceed 415 yards.
- d. Total distance would be 2,635 yards if every hole is maxed out.

*These yardages are recommended in order to accommodate athletes of all skill levels and promote birdies, while creating an overall exceptional player experience.

**Please note that Regional and Championship yardages may exceed the above maximums by up to 25%.

Order of Play From the Teeing Area

2018 Rule:

The team listed first on the scoreboard/scorecard will have the honor to start the Match. A team that wins the hole takes the honor at the next teeing ground.

2019 Rule:

Throughout local league play, Section Qualifiers and Championships: all players designated to hit from the BACK tees will play first on every hole.

Throughout the Regional and National Championship: It is at the Competition Committee's discretion as to how the order of play is determined (back tees first or honour system).

Playing from Wrong Tees

NEW 2019 Rule:

For Stroke Play (Section Qualifiers only): There will be no penalty for a player who accidentally plays from the incorrect tees. However, if it is determined that a player intentionally played from the incorrect tees, the PGA of America reserves the right to declare him/her ineligible for the postseason.

For Match Play: USGA Rules of Golf Rule 6.1b applies: The opposing side may opt to cancel the stroke, but it must be done before either side makes another stroke.

10 Player Policy and Permanent Roster Replacement

2018 rule: Beginning with Section qualifiers (first stage of post-season), 10 all-star players are required to participate. A team that arrives with less than 10 players will incur a 2-stroke penalty for every player not present. Penalty strokes will be added to the overall aggregate team score.

Beginning with Section Championships, a team that arrives with only nine players will forfeit one point to the opposing side for each overall game score, each session. A team that arrives with eight or less players will forfeit two points to the opposing side for each overall game score, each session. These deductions apply to each round of competition. The Competition Committee has the authority to waive penalty strokes and/or point forfeitures outlined above for player medical situations only. Upon request, players should be prepared to submit supporting documentation from a physician within 24-hours of the event.

Under special circumstances, the PGA of America also reserves the right to allow for a permanent roster replacement pending investigation.

All-star players must participate in at least three of their team's regular season games to be eligible. The PGA of America reserves the right to request regular season scorecards to confirm game participation.

2019 rule:

Captains must submit a 10-player roster to participate in the first two stages of postseason (Section Qualifiers and Championships). There will be no penalties for less than 10 players at Qualifiers and Section Championships. However, beginning with Regionals, 10-all-star players are required to participate. A team that arrives with only nine players will forfeit one point to the opposing side for each overall game score, each session. A team that arrives with eight or less players will forfeit two points to the opposing side for each overall game score, each session. These forfeitures apply to each round of competition.

The Competition Committee has the authority to waive penalty strokes and/or point forfeitures outlined above for extenuating circumstances and permanent roster replacements. Captains must submit a permanent roster replacement form where they will sign off on the new player's participation during regular season. Upon receipt of this form to pgajrleague@pgahq.com, the replacement player is considered a part of the team's all-star roster. Please note that all-star players must participate in at least three of their team's regular season games to be eligible.

Placing A Ball

2018 Rule:

A ball to be placed must be placed by the player, his/her partner or their substitute.

If the selected ball is through the green, a ball must be placed through the green, within one club-length of and not nearer the hole than the original ball's position.

If the selected ball is in a bunker, a ball must be placed in the bunker, within one club-length of and not nearer the hole than the original ball's position.

If the selected ball is in a water hazard and the player elects to play the ball as it lies, a ball must be replaced in the water hazard, within one club length of and not nearer the hole than the original ball's position. Or, the player may take relief under Rule 26-1 incurring the penalty stroke.

If the selected ball is on the putting green, a ball must be placed on the putting green, within one clubhead-length of and not nearer the hole than the original ball's position.

2019 Rule:

-A ball must be placed by the player, his/her partner or their substitute.

-If the selected ball is in the general area, a ball must be placed in the general area within one club-length of and not nearer the hole than the original ball's position.

-If the selected ball is in the bunker, a ball must be placed in the bunker, within one club-length of and not nearer the hole than the original ball's position. Under a penalty of one stroke, a player or both players may opt to take back-on-the-line relief *outside* of the bunker under rule 19.2b.

-If the selected ball is in a penalty area and the player elects to play the ball as it lies, a ball must be placed in the penalty area, within one club-length of and not

nearer the hole than the original ball's position. Or, the player may take relief under 17.1d incurring one penalty stroke.

-If the selected ball is on the putting green, a ball must be placed on the putting green, within one clubhead-length of and not nearer the hole than the original ball's position.

-There is no limit to the number of times a player may place and replace the ball, and may do so by any means as long as he/she does so within the appropriate area and does so without unduly delaying play.

Interference with Condition that Grants Free Relief

NEW 2019 Rule:

A player will not receive relief from a condition that by Rule would result in free relief if interference with this condition did not exist when the ball lay in its original spot.

Pace of Play

2018 Rule:

PGA Jr. League players are young and often new to the game. Please use the below tips to assist pace-of-play:

1. A PGA Jr. League match is recreational match-play in a scramble format and should never take more than two hours.
2. Be sure to always keep up with the group in front.
3. Players should spend a maximum of five minutes searching for lost balls. If a player believes his/her ball may be lost outside a water hazard or is out of bounds, he/she should play a provisional ball.
4. Encourage conceding short putts instead of continuing play.
5. Players should spend a maximum of two minutes deciding which shot to select.
6. Players should be ready when it's their turn to hit.
7. Players should walk quickly between shots.
8. Players should limit pre-shot routines to just one practice swing.

9. Players should always place their golf bags on the side of the green that allows them to move quickly to the next teeing ground.

10. Players should leave the putting green as soon as possible so the group behind them can hit their approach shots.

2019 Rule:

Teams should always encourage each other to keep up with the group in front of them. The Competition Committee has the right to penalize groups that are behind.

Lifting and Marking Selected Ball

2018 Rule:

The selected ball may be lifted by the player, his/her partner, their substitute or another person authorized by the player and may be cleaned. The position of the ball must be marked before it is lifted. The ball should be marked either immediately behind the ball or within a clubhead-length to the side of the ball.

2019 Rule:

The selected ball may be lifted by the player, his/her partner, their substitute or another person authorized by the player and may be cleaned. The position of the ball must be marked before it is lifted or played. The ball must be marked right behind or right next to the ball and the mark may be moved one club-head length if a player chooses to play from the original spot. If a ball is lifted or played without being marked, the team will incur a one stroke penalty.

Indicating Line of Play on Putting Green

2018 Rule:

The Line of Putt **MUST NOT** be touched **EXCEPT:** (i) the team may remove loose impediments, provided they do not press anything down; (ii) the player may place the club in front of the ball when addressing it, provided he/she does not press anything down; (iii) in measuring; (iv) in lifting or replacing the ball; (v) in pressing down a ball-marker; (vi) in repairing old hole plugs or ball marks on the putting green; (vii) and in removing movable obstructions.

2019 Rule:

A player is able to touch the line of play or touch the putting green in pointing out a target. This is acceptable, so long as doing so does not improve the conditions for the player's stroke.

Flagstick

NEW 2019 Rule:

A player may make a stroke with the flagstick left in the hole, so that it is possible for the ball in motion to hit the flagstick. The player must decide whether or not to remove the flagstick prior to making their stroke.

Dropping a Ball in Taking Relief:

NEW 2019 Rule:

In taking relief, you must let go of the ball from a location at knee height.