

Texas & Rocky Mountain Junior Golf Tour Hard Card – Local Rules and Conditions of Competition

The Rules of the United States Golf Association govern play unless stated in this document or by the Rules Committee verbally or in a Notice to Players. Complete text of Rules and Local Rules may be found in the [USGA Official Guide to the Rules of Golf](#), effective January 2019. Unless otherwise noted, breaching a Local rule will result in the **general penalty (2 penalty strokes)**,

This version of the TJGT/RMJT Hard Card was adopted March 2020 and will serve as the standardized hard card and complete list of Local Rules that are in place for every tournament.

TEEING AREA – The *teeing area* is a rectangle that is two *club-lengths* deep where the front edge is defined by the line between the forward-most points of two tee-markers set by the *Committee*, and the side edges are defined by the lines back from the outside points of the tee-markers.

OUT OF BOUNDS – All areas outside the boundary edge of the *course* as defined by the *Committee*. All areas inside that edge are in bounds. The boundary edge of the course extends both up above the ground and down below the ground. The boundary edge is defined by the course side edge by objects used for the boundary. Boundary objects may include stakes, posts, lines, dots, walls, fences or other objects as defined by the *Committee*. Stakes, lines and dots should be white. **Rule 18**

PENALTY AREAS – Penalty areas, which are bodies of water or other areas defined by the *Committee* where a ball is often lost or unable to be played. Normally, penalty areas will be identified by yellow or red stakes and defined by stakes or lines. If there are not stakes and lines, the edge of a penalty area will be where the ground falls towards water or will be defined by the *Committee*. A penalty area extends vertically up and down. For one penalty stroke, you may use specific relief options to play a ball from outside the penalty area. Rule 17

ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITIONS (Including Immovable Obstructions, Animal Holes, Ground Under Repair and Temporary Water), Dangerous Animal Condition, Embedded Ball – You may take free relief by playing a ball from a different place, such as when you have interference by an abnormal course condition or a dangerous animal condition. If your ball is in temporary water in a bunker or green or your line of play for your ball lying on a green is intervened with by temporary water, you may take free relief at the nearest point of complete relief. If not available, you may take relief at the point of maximum available relief, which is where the temporary water least interferes with your intended stroke. For relief from a green, your nearest point of complete relief may be on the green or in the general area. This Rule also covers free relief when your ball is embedded in its own pitch mark in the general area. Rule 16

IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS – Immovable obstructions generally include cart paths (paved, gravel, dirt and/or sand) including adjacent worn areas, sprinkler heads, drain grates, pipes, sheds, buildings, hole signs, yardage plates/disks, water fountains, utility boxes, railroad ties, logs, curbs, items attached to curbs and cart paths, poles, guy wires and cables. The *Committee* will define immovable obstructions unique to the golf course for each competition.

GROUND UNDER REPAIR – Ground under repair will generally be identified by white stakes and defined by white stakes, lines or dots. The *Committee* may identify and define ground under repair specific to the

golf course used for each competition. Ground under repair may include material piled for removal, areas of unusual damage, including areas where spectators or other traffic has combined with wet conditions to affect materially the ground surface, but only when so declared by an authorized member of the Committee. When immediately adjacent to an immovable obstruction, such an area is part of that obstruction.

SOD SEAMS – If your ball lies in or touches a seam of cut turf or a seam (ground under repair) interferes with the player’s area of intended swing:

(a) **Ball in General Area.** You may take relief under Rule 16.1b.

(b) **Ball on Putting Green.** You may take relief under Rule 16.1d.

But you may not take free relief if the seam only interferes with your stance.

AERATION HOLES – If your ball lies in or touches an aeration hole (ground under repair):

(a) **Ball in General Area.** You may take relief under Rule 16.1b. If the ball comes to rest after dropping your ball, you may take relief again under this Local Rule.

(b) **Ball on Putting Green.** You may take relief under Rule 16.1d.

But you may not take free relief if the aeration hole only interferes with your stance or, on the putting green, on your line of play.

WHITE LINED AREA TYING INTO ARTIFICIALLY SURFACED ROADS AND PATHS – White-lined areas of ground under repair and the artificially surfaced roads, paths or other identified obstructions that they are connected to are a single abnormal course condition when taking relief under Rule 16.1.

WOOD CHIPS AND MULCH – These are loose impediments.

BALL DEFLECTED BY POWER LINE – If you know or are virtually certain that you ball hit a power line [or tower or a wire or pole supporting a power line] during the play of a hole, your stroke does not count. You must play a ball without penalty from where the previous stroke was made (see Rule 14.6 for how to drop).

INTEGRAL OBJECTS - Include cables, rods, wires and wrappings when closely attached to trees, and artificial walls and pilings when located in penalty areas and bunkers.

RULE 20.1c(3) PLAYING TWO BALLS – If you are uncertain about the right procedure while playing a hole, you may complete the hole with two balls without penalty. You must decide to play two balls after the uncertain situation arises. Before making a stroke at either ball, you should choose which ball will count if the Rules allow the procedure used for that ball and you must announce that choice to your marker or to another player in your group before making a stroke. You must report the facts of the situation to the Rules Committee before returning the scorecard, even if you score the same with both balls. You will be disqualified if you fail to do so. Rule 20.1c

ONE BALL RULE: Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is NOT in effect. Model Local Rule G-4. You may play any brand and model of a conforming golf ball.

LIST OF CONFORMING DRIVER HEADS - driver you use to make a stroke must have a club head, identified by model and loft, which has been on the List of Conforming Driver Heads issued by the USGA. A driver with a club head that was made prior to 1999 is exempt from this Local Rule.

GROOVE AND PUNCH MARK SPECIFICATIONS — In making a stroke, you must use clubs that conform to the groove and punch mark specifications in the Equipment Rules found at USGA.org

BROKEN/DAMAGED CLUBS - LOCAL RULE 4.1b(3) – This rule is modified In this way: If your club is “broken or significantly damaged” during the round by the player or caddie, except in cases of abuse, you may replace the club with any club under Rule 4.1b(4). When replacing a club, you player must immediately take the broken or significantly damaged club out of play, using the procedure in Rule 4.1c(1). For the purposes of this Local Rule: A club is “broken or significantly damaged” whenL (a) the shaft breaks into pieces, splinters or is bent (but not when the shaft is only dented)l (b) the club face impact area is visibly deformed (but not when the club face is only scratched); (c) the clubhead is visibly and significantly deformed; (d) the clubhead is detached or loose from the shaft; or (e) the grip is loose. **Exception:** A club face or clubhead is not “broken or significantly damaged” solely because it is cracked.

LATE TO TEE – Penalty for Breach of Rule 5.3a: Disqualification, except in these three cases:

Exception 1 – Player Arrives at Starting Point, Ready to Play, No More Than Five Minutes Late: You get the general penalty applied to your first hole.

Exception 2 – Player Starts No More Than Five Minutes Early. You gets the general penalty applied to their your hole.

Exception 3 – Committee Decides that Exceptional Circumstances Prevented Player from Starting on Time. There is no breach of Rule 5.3a and you are not subject to a penalty.

IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION OF PLAY – If the *Committee* declares an immediate suspension of play, you must stop play at once and you must not make another *stroke* until the *Committee* resumes play. All practice areas are CLOSED during suspension for dangerous situation until the Committee declares them open. Penalty for Breach of Rule 5.7b: Disqualification.

PRACTICE: Prior to and after a round in stroke play, you may practice on the designated practice areas. Rule 5.2b covering practice in stroke play is modified in this way: You may not practice on the competition course before or between rounds. Model Local Rule I-1.2

- Penalty for first breach of this rule is the general penalty.
- Penalty for second breach of this rule is disqualification.

PRACTICE BETWEEN HOLES: Between the play of two holes, you must not make any practice strokes on or near the putting green of the hole just completed or test the surface of that putting green by rubbing the putting green or rolling a ball. Model Local Rule I-2.

- Penalty for breach of this rule is the general penalty.

UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT is defined as profane, vulgar and/or abusive language audible to others; carelessly and/or deliberately throwing clubs; verbalizing with intent of intimidation; or exhibiting behavior not in accordance with the spirit of fair play. If your actions warrant, you may be subject to a disqualification penalty.

ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT – Range finders (all types such as GPS, watches, etc.) are the ONLY electronic equipment allowed, and must not measure elevation changes or interpret distance or directional information. The penalty for violations of this policy is a general penalty if the infraction occurs on only 1 hole; if the infraction occurs over multiple holes, you will be disqualified.

TRANSPORTATION –During a round, you or your caddie must not ride on any form of motorized transportation **except** as authorized or later approved by the Committee. Model Local Rule G-6

SHOT LIMIT – There are NO shot limits for any event on the TJGT or RMJT. You must hole out on every hole, without exception.

SCORING AREA and SCORECARD RETURNED – Only Junior Golfers playing in the tournament, Rules Officials, and Committee Members may enter the Scoring Area. Your scorecard is returned once the you and your marker(s) have signed the scorecard, given it to the Committee and left the scoring area. Once the scorecard is returned NO changes can be made.

SIGNING FOR AN INCORRECT SCORE – If you sign for a score lower than your actual score, other than when you inadvertently fail to include a penalty of which you were not aware, you will be disqualified. Once you have returned a properly signed scorecard and leave the scoring area, your score will be considered final.

Competitors not in the player's group and/or spectators are not permitted to attest the score of another player; however, the scoring official may consult with them if done to consider all information available to the player. If a player believes a competitor's score to be incorrect after the fact, he or she must address it with said player, and said player is required to report the inaccuracy of their own score to the scoring official.

COMPETITION CLOSED – This occurs when the trophy is presented or in the absence of a presentation when scores have been approved by the Committee.

TJGT CODES OF CONDUCT

PACE OF PLAY – You will be given 40 seconds to play a shot once it is your turn. If you or your group is deemed to be off-pace, the following will occur:

- (1) Your group will be warned by a rules official they are out of position, and given a certain number of holes to get back on pace (usually 2-3 holes).
- (2) If your group fails to get back on place, each player will be notified and put on the clock, having 40 seconds to hit their shot.
- (3) One bad time will result in a warning; a second bad time will result in a 1-stroke penalty for the player. Subsequent bad times will result in a **general penalty (2 strokes)**
- (4) Gross negligence of the pace of play may result in a disqualification. The Rules Committee will, at its discretion, take into account any time-altering factors such as host course problems, weather conditions and any unforeseeable time obstacles.

INAPPROPRIATE ON-COURSE BEHAVIOR – All players (and spectators) are expected to act in a manner concurrent with the rules and ethics of the game of golf. Behavior such as club slamming/throwing, distracting outbursts or use of foul or inappropriate language, whether directed at a fellow competitor, spectator or not, is prohibited. Under Rule 1.2b, players may be subjected to a 2-stroke penalty (the General Penalty) or disqualification if they exhibit behavior contrary to what is expected on the golf course.

In minor instances, TJGT officials reserve the right to issue a warning to a player before a penalty or disqualification. Officials also may move directly to disqualification if actions or behaviors of a player are deemed to be overly egregious, and may further ban players or spectators if found necessary.

REPORTING RULES VIOLATIONS – If you witness a rules violation, you must promptly alert the player in question and/or a Rules Official as to the possible infraction. Rules Officials and/or the Rules Committee will do everything within their power to immediately resolve rules violations and assess proper penalties during the round. Any rules violations that cannot be immediately addressed or solved by a Rules Official will be addressed at scoring and the proper penalty will be enforced.

NOTE – Listed on every rule sheet and in the “Rules” Tab in the live scoring app is the phone number for the head rules official. Players are allowed and encouraged to immediately call that number if/when a rules violation occurs and another rules official cannot be easily located.

If you witness a potential rules violation and you fail or decline to alert your group or a Rules Official before the player in question returns his or her scorecard, the Committee may disqualify you under Rule 1.2a if it is decided that this was a serious misconduct contrary to the spirit of the game.

If there is disagreement within a group as to a rule procedure and a Rules Official is not present, the player in question may play two balls under Rule 20.1c(3), and a ruling will be given at scoring (or as soon as possible, as long as pace of play is not affected).

Rules Officials/the Rules Committee are instructed to gather all possible information regarding a possible rules violation and issue a ruling in accordance with USGA Rules and this document. In the event that a Rules Official/Rules Committee truly cannot determine if a violation occurred due to a lack of preponderance of evidence, the Rules Official/Committee will issue no penalty to the player in question.

TJGT PLAYER-SPECTATOR POLICES, RULES & PROCEDURES

In the game of golf, like any other sport, spectators are a welcome element, but are required to be silent observers of the game, not injecting themselves in any way unless on the request or instruction of a rules official. Being a spectator is a privilege, not a right. Understanding that concept, the TJGT requires of spectators:

1. Advice (Rule 10.2) is any verbal comment or action that is intended to influence you or another player in choosing a club, making a stroke, or deciding how to play during a hole or round. In addition, any conversation between player/spectator may be construed as advice. This includes any conversation between player/spectator in their native language. In either instance, penalty for breach of this rule is two strokes. Players are responsible for the actions of their relatives and spectators in regards to this rule.
2. Keeping the above statement in mind, please keep your conversation with the player to words of encouragement as long as advice is not given.
3. Please silence your cell phone while at TJGT events or abide by the Host Facilities policy, whichever is more strict.

4. The TJGT allows spectator carts (at the permission of the host facility), but spectator carts must be kept on the cart path at all times, no exceptions.
5. Spectators should stay on cart paths even when walking. In the absence of cart paths, we ask that spectators stay in the rough. Please stay off fairways, tees and greens.
6. Spectators should stay one shot ahead of the group they are following. This allows spectators to follow errant shots and help identify where the ball comes to rest. Spectators are allowed to aid in the search for lost golf balls.
7. Spectators are prohibited from giving rulings; players will not be absolved of penalties incurred due to a breach of a rule given by a spectator. Rules and Tournament Officials are the only authority regarding the rules of golf at a TJGT tournament.
8. Spectators are allowed to carry medicine, drinks, food, umbrellas, etc., but must, at all times, stay as far away from players as possible.

SPECTATOR/PLAYER GIVING OR SOLICITING ADVICE – As listed above per USGA Rule 10.2, the soliciting of advice by a player or giving advice or discussions between player and spectator that may be construed as advice is prohibited. Advice or construed advice may include:

- Information on what club to hit or distance to a hole/marker/landmark
- Information regarding break or slope on a putting surface
- Information regarding weather, wind direction, elevation change, etc.
- Any digital communication between player & spectator
- Extended conversations/walking with player of any nature, regardless of actual subject
- Player sitting in spectator cart when not approved by rules official
- The touching/moving/adjusting/carry of players clubs, bag or any equipment

Note: Discussions between a player and spectator of any nature, regardless of language spoken, are prohibited during play, and will be construed as advice under Rule 10.2.

- 1) **The penalty for breach of Rule 10.2 is the General Penalty (2 strokes).** Understand, there is no warning associated with Rule 10.2 – first breach is an immediate 2 stroke penalty. Players witnessing a violation under the Player-Spectator policy are instructed to inform the player in question immediately and contact a rules official as quickly as possible.
- 2) Upon second occurrence within the same round, the TJGT may also elect to remove the spectator(s) involved from the golf course for the duration of the round, or the duration of the tournament if deemed necessary.

GENERAL SPECTATOR ACTION/BEHAVIOR POLICY – All spectators are expected to be silent observers and act appropriately as it pertains to the rules and ethics of golf. Under the general spectator policies, spectators:

MUST

- Stay on the cart path (or as near as possible at all times), this includes while watching players putt on putting green
- Keep an appropriate distance from players at all time, so as to avoid even the appearance of advice/discussion

- Keep cell phones on silent at all times and keep communication with other spectators as quiet as possible so as to not distract players

MUST NOT

- Walk or drive the cart in/down the fairway AT ANY TIME, FOR ANY REASON
- Use language inappropriate to the game of golf, or any actions that may be deemed a distraction to the players or other spectators
- Give any sort of ruling or comment on the rules to a player in any way.
- Touch, move, pull or carry any of the player's equipment at any time, unless specifically instructed by TJGT rules official

MAY

- Carry items for the player, such as food, water, umbrella, extra cold-weather clothing or rain gear
- Give or receive from player said items listed above, but keeping conversation to a minimum
- Assist in the locating of golf balls to help with pace of play. BUT NOTE, once the golf ball is found, spectators must immediately return to the cart path and/or move far away from the player
- Shuttle players from green to tee box (or other locations) only when specified by TJGT rules officials

Any spectators in violation of the above General Spectator Polices will be given an initial warning by TJGT rules officials. On second offense may be removed from the golf course at Tournament Committee discretion.

TJGT Tournament Committee may, in instances of extreme misbehavior, remove a spectator/spectators from the golf course immediately without warning, and may prohibit spectator return for the duration of the tournament (or longer) at the committee's discretion.