LOCAL RULES AND TERMS OF THE COMPETITION FOR 2026 VSGA QUALIFIERS AND CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Rules of Golf as approved by the United States Golf Association and R&A Rules Limited govern play. These Local Rules and Terms of the Competition are in effect at all VSGA championships and qualifying rounds. See applicable championship or qualifying round notice to players and entry application for modifications or additions to these Local Rules and Terms of the Competition. Complete text of the Rules and Local Rules may be found in the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf, effective January 2023.

Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule is the general penalty.

Out of Bounds — Defined by the line between the course-side points of white stakes at ground level. When fences or walls define out of bounds, a ball is out of bounds when it is beyond the fence/ wall defining the boundary of the course (see Model Local Rule A-2.2). When roads define out of bounds a ball that comes to rest on or across a road is considered to be out of bounds even if it lies on another part of the course (see Model Local Rule A-5).

Penalty Areas — When a penalty area is defined on only one side, it extends to infinity. When a penalty area is connected to the out of-bounds edge, the penalty area extends to and coincides with out of bounds — Model Local Rule B-2.2 is in effect to provide an additional relief option.

Ground Under Repair — Defined by white lines, unless otherwise provided for in the *Notice to Players*.

- French drains are ground under repair.
- Ground under repair may include 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.

Animal Near Ball — Model Local Rule E-13 is in effect.

Relief from Seams of Cut Turf — Model Local Rule F-7 is in effect.

Immovable Obstructions Adjacent to Artificially-Surfaced Roads and Paths — Deemed to be a continuation of the road and/or path.

Immovable Obstructions Close to Putting Green — Model Local Rule F-5.2 is in effect. Relief under this Local Rule is only allowed when both the ball and the Immovable Obstruction lie in an area cut to fairway height or less.

Immovable Obstructions Close Together — Immovable obstructions within or adjacent to each other (e.g. scorecard length), including but not limited to sprinkler heads near putting greens, are considered to be a single obstruction. Consult a referee with questions.

Limited Free Relief From Immovable Obstructions in Penalty Areas — Model Local Rule F-24 is in effect. Relief from interference by sprinkler heads and utility boxes within one club-length of the edge of the penalty area is allowed Under Rule 16.1b, but only when the ball touches or lies on the obstruction or the obstructions interferes with the area of intended swing.

Temporary Immovable Obstructions — Model Local Rule F-23 is in effect. Any air-circulation fans and tents on the course are temporary immovable obstructions. Relief procedure may be taken on either side of the TIO.

White-Lined Areas 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 — Are loose impediments.

Integral Objects — Include cables, rods, wires or wrappings when closely attached to trees; and artificial walls and pilings when located in penalty areas and bunkers.

An exposed bunker liner may be treated as ground under repair, but interference does not exist if the liner interferes only with the player's stance.

Relief From Aeration Holes — Model Local Rule E-4 is in effect.

List of Conforming Driver Heads — Model Local Rule G-1 is in effect.

Missing Player or Marker Certification — Model Local Rule L-1 is in effect.

Pace of Play — See vsga.org for complete pace of play policy.

- Timing — When a group is being timed, each player in the group is expected to play all strokes within 40 seconds. Timing begins when it is the player's turn to play and nothing is obstructing his/her play.
- Penalties — One bad time - warning; a second bad time - one stroke penalty; a third bad time - additional two stroke penalty (three total); a fourth bad time - disqualification.

Stopping and Resuming Play — Model Local Rule J-1 is in effect. All practice areas are closed during an immediate suspension for a dangerous situation until the Committee has declared them open. Players who practice on closed practice areas will be asked to stop practicing; failure to comply might result in disqualification.

- Immediate suspension: one prolonged airhorn note.
- All other suspensions: three consecutive short airhorn notes.
- Resumption of Play: two short airhorn notes.

When Competition Is Final — The competition is final when the trophy has been presented to the winner or, in the absence of a prize ceremony, when all scores have been approved by the Committee. The result of a match is final when the Committee has approved the result.

TIME OF STARTING - The official starting time is the time on the starter's clock on the respective starting hole(s). All other clocks are unofficial.