



USGA Rules

Play will be from the Forward (Gold) Tees on all courses. If the tee markers are **not** in their "usual" position, you must play from where they are located. All USGA Rules apply.

Please note the following:

- **Out of Bounds:** is defined by white stakes (Rule 18)
- **Penalty Areas:** are marked with red stakes. Refer to USGA Rule 17 for relief options.
- **Bunkers: NO** relief is granted if your ball comes to rest in a footprint or unraked area of the bunker. You may remove natural objects (leaves, stones, etc.), but if your ball moves as a result of your action, you are assessed a one stroke penalty. If your ball comes to rest against a rake in the bunker, you may move the rake. If your ball moves as a result, you must replace it with no penalty.
- **Pace of Play:** It is imperative that you keep up with the group in front of you. If you cannot see them, you are out of position and must make every effort to speed up play. Your group may be penalized if it is determined that you are behind pace.
- **Exchange score cards within your group:** Please turn in your signed and attested score cards to the SAWGA representative on the patio or the Pro Shop personnel. If there is a dispute, DO NOT sign your card until the issue has been resolved by the Head Pro or his/her representative. Please turn your card in before taking your clubs to your car.
- **Do not post your tournament score to GHIN.** The Tournament Committee will post the tournament scores to GHIN if appropriate to do so based on the tournament format.

SAWGA 2026 Local Rules

The SAWGA Board has established a limited number of Local Rules that will be in effect for **all** SAWGA Tournaments, unless stated otherwise. Please know that the following Local Rules only apply to SAWGA Tournaments. Be mindful that other venues may have different Local Rules.

- **E-3 Preferred Lies** -The "Lift, Clean and Place" rule will **only** apply if the Tournament Committee decides to implement it for a specific tournament. If this rule is in effect, players will be notified. This option can **only** be used when your ball is in the fairway.

Players will mark their ball, lift it, clean it, and then place it within one club length of the original spot no closer to the hole.

- **E-4 Relief from Aeration Holes** - Relief from aeration holes is **ONLY** available in the fairway or on the putting green. You may mark your ball, clean it, and drop it in the fairway (as near your mark as possible) or place it on the green (as near your mark as possible). If your ball comes to rest in another aeration hole in the fairway, repeat the process. Note: you cannot repair aeration holes on the green.
- **E-5 Lost Ball or Out-of-Bounds** - When a player's ball has not been found or is known or virtually certain to be out of bounds or lost, the player may proceed as follows rather than proceeding under stroke and distance. Determine the spot where your ball went out of bounds, and or the agreed area in which your ball was lost. Find the nearest fairway edge no closer to the hole. You then get two club lengths into the fairway, no closer to the hole. Drop your ball into the two-club length area. This option will result in a two-stroke penalty. If you had chosen to hit a "provisional ball" from the spot of your original shot, then E-5 is no longer an option. E-5 is also not an option if your ball is in a penalty area.
- **F-5 Immovable Obstructions – Sprinkler Head Near the Green** - You may have free relief from a sprinkler head near the green if you wish to putt rather than chip your ball. The following conditions must **ALL** apply.
 1. The sprinkler head must be in your line of play.
 2. The sprinkler head must be within two club lengths of the putting surface.
 3. Your ball must be within two club lengths of the sprinkler head.

You take relief by finding the nearest point of relief from the sprinkler head and then drop the ball within one club length of that point no closer to the hole. You may not remove sand and loose soil from your line of play on the fringe. You may clean sand and loose soil from the green.

- **G-8 Prohibiting or Restricting Use of Audio Devices** - Use of audio devices is prohibited if any member of the player's group objects to it. Golf-related audio devices are not allowed.
- **Tree Roots** - You may have free relief from tree roots that are in the fairway **ONLY**. Find the nearest point of relief from the tree root, and then drop the ball within one club length no closer to the hole. Tree roots **NOT** in the fairway are considered part of the tree and free relief is **NOT** given.
- **Unmarked Ground Under Repair (GUR)** - Santa Ana Golf Club has implemented a "no mark" policy for the golf course. Therefore, a local Unmarked GUR rule is in effect for SAWGA events. The Unmarked GUR Local Rule **only** pertains to areas in the fairway. *Note: The GUR rule is not in effect on a marked course. Meaning, if the course has been marked*

with white paint, specifically referencing Ground under Repair, this Unmarked GUR rule is not in effect.

If you believe your ball has come to rest in an area of the fairway that is Unmarked GUR, you may ask your playing partners for relief. If all players do not agree, therefore not granting relief, but you believe that you are in unmarked ground under repair and should get relief, then proceed as follows:

- Take a picture of the situation
 - Play two balls
 - Report to the Tournament Committee once you have completed the round. The Committee and/or a Club Professional shall make a ruling.
-
- **Blue Stakes** - There are blue stakes on Tamaya 3 along the left side of the fairway near the maintenance shack. This is considered a “No Play Zone.” If your ball crosses the blue stakes into this area you must take one club length of free relief into the rough, no closer to the hole, on the line that your ball crossed over into the hazard. *Please note that due to safety reasons, you are **NOT** permitted to play from this area or go into this area to locate your ball. If your ball is within plain view and easily accessible you may retrieve your ball.*

 - **Maintenance Paths**- The undeveloped maintenance path along the right side of Star 9 fairway is **Not** considered a cart path, and relief will not be given. If your ball comes to rest on the dirt path you must play your ball as it lies. This applies to other undeveloped maintenance paths that may be around the course.