LOCAL RULES and TERMS of the COMPETITION
FOR 2026 MSGA CHAMPIONSHIPS and TOURNAMENTS

The Rules of Golf as approved by the United States Golf Association and the R&A Rules Limited govern play. See applicable championship or qualifying round *Notice to Players* and *Entry Application* for modifications and/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.

LOCAL RULES

ANIMAL NEAR BALL – Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule E-13.

BALL DEFLECTED by POWER LINE – Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule E-11.

CODE of CONDUCT – See separate memorandum to players for code of conduct policy.

GROUND UNDER REPAIR – Defined by white lines. 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.

IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS CLOSE to PUTTING GREENS– Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule F-5.2.

INTEGRAL OBJECTS – Include objects when closely attached to trees and boundary objects. And artificial walls and pilings when located in penalty areas or in or adjacent to bunkers, and bunker liners.

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

LIST of CONFORMING DRIVER HEADS – Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule G-1.

LIST of CONFORMING GOLF BALLS – Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule G-3.

MISSING PLAYER or MARKER CERTIFICATION – Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures. Model Local Rule L-1.

MULCH and WOOD CHIPS – Are loose impediments unless otherwise provided for in the *Notice to Players*.

OUT of BOUNDS – When defined by reference to stakes or a fence, the line is determined by the nearest course-side points at ground level of the stakes or fence posts. When defined by a line on the ground, the line itself is out of bounds.

PACE of PLAY – See separate memorandum to players for pace of play policy, when applicable.

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.

PROHIBITING USE of SHOES with METAL or TRADITIONALLY DESIGNED SPIKES – Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule G-7.

RELIEF from SEAMS of CUT TURF (SOD SEAMS) – Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule F-7.

STOPPING and RESUMING PLAY – Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule J-1.

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 stop practicing might result in disqualification.

An immediate suspension will be signaled by one prolonged airhorn note. All other types of suspension will be signaled by three consecutive airhorn notes. Resumption of play will be signaled by two short airhorn notes.

TEMPORARY IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS – Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule F-23.

USE of AUDIO and VIDEO DEVICES – Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule G-8.

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 as posted on the public scoreboard.

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.