

# Fox Hollow Men's Golf Club

## 2024 Terms of Competition & Local Rules – The Hard Card

The current Rules of Golf of the United States Golf Association and the By Laws of the Fox Hollow Men's Golf Club (FHMGC) govern play for all tournament events conducted by the club. References designated as MLR[8 - ] are to the Model Local Rules published in the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf. The Notice to Competitors (*Notice*) and the Entry Guidelines for each event supplement and supersede any conflicting Terms of Competition or Local Rules listed below. The local rules of the host course are not applicable. Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a local rule or condition is the *General Penalty*.

### General Terms of Competition

**Tournaments:** The Board of Directors (BOD) of the FHMGC post on their website, FHMGC.Com, the "Tournament Entry and Participation Policy"

**Event Chairmen:** The BOD appoints the chairmen for each event who shall create the *Notice* (COP Sheet) for the event.

**Rules Committee:** Consists of the following onsite or available by phone, text or email: BOD President, Rules Chairman and Co-Chairman, and any additional members appointed by the Rules Chairman or President.

**The Committee (Event):** Consists of the Event Chairmen and the Rules Committee.

**Addendums:** The BOD and the *Committee* may at any time issue addendums to the Hard Card (HC) for unusual conditions such as health and environmental issues, dangerous conditions, temporary damage to the course(s) or changes to normal conditions of competition. The members will be notified when an addendum is no longer in effect. The *Committee* may notify players at the starting area of an additional local rule in effect for each day of an event. A separate *Notice* governs play in an Interclub competition.

**Match Play:** A Notice governing the year long matches in flights will be posted on the FHMGC website; for handicap competitions, it is the player's responsibility to obtain their current GHIN Handicap on the day of play and apply any strokes given or received correctly {Rule 3.2c(2)}.

**Standards of Conduct:** At all times the players must be neat in appearance with respect to clothing and personal grooming and must conform to the host course requirements. The player and caddie must not exhibit objectionable or unbecoming conduct which includes any action inappropriate of a gentleman golfer including club throwing, foul language, inappropriate motorized cart usage, intentional damage to the golf course property, disruptive behavior in the course restaurant or club house, abuse of golf course staff, and alcohol/drug impaired behavior. The use of Cell/Smart Phone usage is discouraged except for an emergency, a request for a ruling and accessing material allowed under the Rules of Golf. Violations may result in disqualification and further sanctions by the BOD {Rule 1.2b}. The Event Chairmen must report to the BOD any reported or known breach of "The Standards of Conduct".

**Audio & Visual Devices:** The use of devices including headsets and earbuds by a player to eliminate distractions to the player's performance is prohibited {Rule 4.3a(4)}. The use of all personal audio/video devices during the round for any event is prohibited MLR[8G-8]. Penalty for breach is under {Rule 4.3}.

**Footwear:** Players must wear footwear on the course property. Shoes with traditionally designed spikes, regardless of the composition of the spikes are prohibited MLR[8G-7]; Penalty is under {Rule 4.3}.

**Golf Equipment:** The player's equipment must conform to the specifications listed in The USGA Equipment Rules.

- a. Conforming Driver Heads. Penalty for a Breach: Disqualification MLR[8G-1]
- b. Conforming Golf Balls. Penalty for a Breach: Disqualification MLR[8G-3].
- c. The One Ball Local Rule is not in effect MLR[8G-4].

- d. Groove and Punch Mark exception in MLR[8G-2] is not in effect.
- e. Motorized push/pull carts are allowed unless the host course prohibits them.

**Suspension & Resumption of Play:** The Event Chairmen will handle any suspension and resumption of play of an event. The Fox Hollow Courses, as a matter of policy to avoid liability, takes no responsibility for notification of players of dangerous conditions which may warrant a suspension of play. A group may suspend its play for dangerous situations in an event but must report the suspension to the *Event Committee* {Rule 5.7a}.

### Local Rules – The Course

**Out of Bounds (OB):** Defined by *Boundary Objects* - white lines, white stakes, the course side edge at ground level of walks, roads fences or walls. A ball that crosses a public road defined as *out of bounds* and comes to rest beyond the road is *out of bounds* even if lying on another part of the course MLR[8A-3]. Closed Gates that are part of a boundary fence or wall are part of the Boundary Object MLR[8F-26]. Double stakes turn a boundary edge and provide a site line from the unmarked boundary from that point to infinity.

**Penalty Areas (Red and Yellow):** Defined by lines or stakes. When a *Penalty Area* is defined on only one side, it extends to infinity. When a *Penalty Area* is connected to the course *Out of Bounds*, the penalty area extends to and coincides with the *Out of Bounds* edge.

**Integral Objects on the Course:** Unless otherwise provided for in the *Notice*, they include cables, rods, wires or wrappings when closely attached to trees and artificial walls and pilings when located in Bunkers or Penalty Areas. *Integral Objects* are not *Obstructions* or *Boundary Objects*.

**Wood Chips and Mulch:** Wood chips and mulch are *Loose Impediments* everywhere.

**Ground Under Repair (GUR):** Defined by areas enclosed by white lines or roped off, exposed rocks in closely mown areas cut to fairway height or less in the *General Area*, flower beds, newly sodded areas, turf nurseries, French drains, and exposed liners in Bunkers (for lie and stroke only, not stance). Only the *Committees* may deem an additional part of the course as *Ground Under Repair* MLR[8F-1]

**Seams of Cut Turf in General Area - Not Defined as GUR:** Relief is for lie of the ball or the stroke but not for stance MLR[8F-7].

**No Play Zones (NPZs):** *No Play Zones* are designated by Green Topped Stakes. Relief is required under the applicable {Rule 16.1f} or Rule {17.1e}. Penalty for play from *No Play Zone*: General Penalty for each stroke from within it MLR[8E-8], {Rule 14.7}.

**Protected Areas of Course:** Are *No Play Zones* even if not marked; they Include flower beds, newly sodded areas, turf nurseries and *wrong putting greens*. The player must take relief under the applicable {Rule 16.1f} {Rule 131.f} or {Rule 17.1e}.

**Artificial Surfaced Paths on the Course:** Maintenance Paths, Dirt Roads, Cart Paths and soil retention nets placed by Maintenance staff are *Immovable Obstructions* MLR[8F-17].

**Areas and Immovable Objects Tied into Artificially Surfaced Roads and Paths:** White-lined areas of GUR connected to artificially surfaced roads & paths (*Immovable Obstructions*) are a single *Abnormal Course Condition* (ACC). Protective small fences, stakes, posts or similar objects adjacent to a cart path are treated as part of the cart path. Flower beds and bare or damaged areas touching a cart path are part of the path. Relief may be taken under {Rule 16.1}, MLR[8F-3.1, -3.2, -3.3]

**Immovable Obstructions Close to The Putting Green:** Relief is for the ball and the *immovable obstruction* in the same closely mown area cut to fairway height or less when the Obstruction is within 2 clublengths of the green and the ball is within 2 clublengths of the Obstruction MLR[8F-5.1], MLR[8F-5.2].

**Landscaped Garden Areas Flower beds, Shrubbery, or the like encircled by an Immovable Obstruction:** Are considered part of the obstruction MLR[8F-3.3].

## **Stroke Play Competitions**

**Scoring Area:** The Event Chairmen must define the official scoring area where scorecards must be promptly returned or scores certified.

**Scorecards:** No alterations may be made on the officially returned scorecard (electronic or otherwise) after the player has left the scoring area. Exceptions: failure to include a penalty discovered before close of competition {Rule 3.3b(3)} or the result of ruling requested before the player has left the scoring area. For electronic scorecards, an addendum or the *Notice* will provide the procedure. The penalty for a player returning a scorecard without proper certification under {Rule 3.3b(2)} is modified to 2 strokes MLR[8L-1].

**Close of Competition:** The competition is closed when all scores have been posted on the official scoreboard (including electronic) or have been officially approved by the *Committee*.

**Ties:** The procedure for each flight will be stated on the event *Notice*. Ties for finishing positions within a flight will be settled by matching scorecards (see Committee Procedures Section [5A-6]). In a competition with a multiple tee start, the last nine holes listed on scorecard are deemed to be the final nine holes.

In the Major Events, if approved by the Course Pro Shop, the “Champion” in the Championship Flight will be decided by a Hole by Hole playoff on hole(s) selected by the *Committee*; otherwise a Champion will be decided by matching scorecards (see Committee Procedures Section [5A-6]).

**Pace of Play:** The Pace of Play Policy of the FHMGC “Pace of Play Policy and Procedures” is published on the FHMGC website or and by an addendum. The *Committee* may assess a separate penalty to a player for unreasonable delay of play {Rule 5.6a}. “Ready Golf” is strongly encouraged {Rule 5.6b} and {Rule 6.4b}.

**Practice:** Practice between holes is discouraged and may subject a player to an unreasonable delay of play penalty {Rule 5.6}. The *Committee* may prohibit practice between holes on the *Notice* MLR[8I-2].

## **Local Rules – Fox Hollow Courses**

**Drop Zones (DZs):** The following drop zones are available as an additional option under the applicable rule with any applicable penalty:

Canyon #2: The forward Teeing Area (Gold Tee) for a ball that travels at least as far as the DZ and is *Known or Virtually Certain* to lie in the left side *Penalty Area* before the fairway (1 penalty stroke, {Rule 17.1}).

Canyon #5: There is no DZ on this hole. The course designated DZ on putting green side is not available as an option!

Canyon #6: The forward Teeing Area on the Teeing Area side before the bridge for a ball that is *Known or Virtually Certain* to lie in any *Penalty Area* (1 penalty stroke, {Rule 17.1}).

Meadow #5: The forward *Teeing Area* (Normal Gold Tees) before the *Penalty Area* gulch and left of the cart path before the bridge:

- a. for a ball that travels at least as far as the DZ and is *Known or Virtually Certain* to lie in any *penalty area*. (1 Penalty stroke, {Rule 17.1}); or
- b. for a ball lying on the road (ACC) connecting Meadows 5 to Meadows 1 (Free Relief, {Rule 16.1})

Meadow #6: The forward *Teeing Area* that fronts the left side *Penalty Area* for a ball played from a Teeing Area that is *Known or Virtually Certain* to lie in the left side *Penalty Area* (1 Penalty stroke, {Rule 17.1}). The course DZ is not in effect.

Meadow #9: The nearest Teeing Area before the *Penalty Area* for a ball *Known or Virtually Certain* to lie in or entering any *Penalty Area* fronting or to the right of the teeing pads (1 Penalty stroke {Rule 17.1})

Links Course: There are no DZs in effect.

**Provisional Ball for Ball in a Penalty Area MLR[8B-3]:** A player may play a ball provisionally under any of the options in Rule 17.1d (including an applicable drop zone) for a ball played from any *Teeing Area* that may be in one of the following *Penalty Areas*:

Meadow 5: The *Red Penalty Areas* right of the cart path and left of the fairway on the *Putting Green* side of the bridge.

Meadow 6: The left side *Red Penalty Area* continuing to the hole.

Meadow 9: The *Penalty Area* in front of the *Teeing Areas* and *Red Penalty Area* that continues down the right side to hole.

1. If the original ball is found in the *Penalty Area* within a 3 minute search time {rule 18.2a}, the player may play it as it lies or may play the ball played provisionally, but may not utilize any other option under Rule 17.1.
2. If the original ball is found outside the *Red Penalty Area* within the allowed 3 minute search time it is the ball *in play*.
3. Otherwise, the Provisional ball is the ball *in play*.
4. This rule does not override the prohibited play of a ball in a No Play Zone.

### **Local Rule - Relief for a ball in a Red Penalty Area next to a Cart Path**

If a player's ball is *Known or Virtual Certain* to have entered and remained in a *Red Penalty Area* after crossing an adjoining cart path in the *General Area*, the player has the following additional option under Rule 17.1d to drop a ball in this *Relief Area*:

·Reference Point: The nearest point of complete relief from the cart path in the *General Area* and that is no closer to the hole than the point the ball last crossed the edge of the *Red Penalty Area*.

·Size of the Relief Area: A one club length area from the Reference Point in the *General Area* that is no closer to the hole than the reference point and that there is complete relief from interference from the cart path.

The player correctly proceeding under this option only receives the one penalty stroke under as in Rule 17.1d.

1. A cart path is considered adjoining or next to a *Red Penalty Area* if the player were to elect to take relief under Rule 17.1d(3) (Lateral) and a ball could be correctly dropped in the 2 Club Length Relief Area on the cart path.
2. If a player initially drops under Rule 17.1d(3), they may not then utilize this local rule until a stroke is made.
3. The local rule does not override any other rule in effect.

Penalty for playing from a wrong place: General Penalty, Rule 14.7.

### **2024 FHMGC Rules Committee**

Daniel Wolken, Rules Chairman; Rick Rosemeyer, CGA; Mike Rice, CPGA, Tom Morrissey President; Iain Armstrong