

Branch 159 Golf Rules
(reviewed 09/20/2024)

SIR 159 Golf is a NCGA licensed Associate Golf Club, which operates under USGA rules, except as otherwise modified. SIR 159 Golf's rules are Local Rules in force for all tournaments hosted by our club.

1. Tournament Rules

In order to participate in our weekly regular tournament, a player must be a SIR Member in good standing AND hold an active handicap index with an approved licensing association. A new player/member, without handicap index, shall contact the Golf Chairman or Handicap Chairman, to acquire an active SIRs handicap Index GHIN. Tournament rules supersede general rules of play. Players shall check with the Monthly Tournament Chairman (MTC) for Rules of the Day.

In order to participate in our club's Special Yearly Tournaments (Ron Rich, Individual Club and Team Championship, or any other designated Special event) a player must hold a SIR 159 GHIN.

2. Preferred Lie.

Unless otherwise announced in advance, we play under "Winter rules" all year long. A player may lift, clean and place his ball from tee to green except when:

- in a hazard (red or yellow staked), or
- in a bunker (except in standing water).

The placing of the ball must be within 6 (six) inches of the original position. The placement may not be:

- a. any closer to the hole,
- b. from out-of-bounds to in-bounds, or
- c. from off-the-green to on-the-green,
- d. from in a bunker to out of a bunker,

but from the rough to the fairway is allowed.

3. Ball lost or out of bounds

If there is any question that a ball may have gone out of bounds or be lost outside a water hazard, a player may call and play a provisional ball immediately. The time allowed to search for ball shall not exceed 3 minutes. If the original ball is not found, then the provisional ball is in play; add 1 penalty stroke (plus the stroke for the provisional ball). OR apply the stroke and distance rule and follow that procedure.

GOLF'S NEW RULES: STROKE AND DISTANCE

A new Local Rule will provide an alternative to stroke-and-distance relief for a ball that is lost outside a penalty area or out of bounds. This new Local Rule will be available beginning January 1, 2019.

BALL OUT OF BOUNDS



LOST BALL



If the Local Rule is in effect, you can still take stroke-and-distance relief, but you will now have the following additional option that comes with a penalty of two strokes:

A DETERMINE SPOT where your ball went out of bounds (left diagram) or is likely to be lost (right diagram).

B FIND NEAREST FAIRWAY EDGE no closer to the hole.

C DROP YOUR BALL IN SHADED AREA as defined on one side by a line from the hole through point A and on the other side by a line from the hole through point B, and not nearer the hole. The relief area is extended on both sides by two club-lengths.

This Local Rule is not intended for higher levels of play, such as professional or elite amateur level competitions.



A player cannot assume his ball was lost inside a water hazard.

4. Pace of Play

SIR Branch 159 has targeted a pace of play of four (4) hours and thirty (30) minutes or less for each round. All groups are expected to complete their round within 20 minutes of the group in front of them (starting times are normally set at 8 minute intervals). There is a 2 stroke penalty assessed to each player when his group is late.

To speed up play, our events are "ready golf", i.e. each golfer within a group hits when ready and safe for all players. In practicality, if you reach your ball and are ready to hit, while other members of your group are not yet prepared, then go ahead and hit even if you're not away.

Golf carts: the driver should drop his partner to his ball, then drive to his ball and get ready to hit while his partner is hitting.

5. Hole in One

During a SIR 159 hosted regular golf tournament, the player who aces an hole, will receive an award and/or a money prize. The player, to be eligible, must be a SIR member in good standing and hold a SIR 159 GHIN and have entered the CTP contest for this tournament.

6. Accidental movement of ball on green

(2017 new local rule) No penalty for accidentally moving your ball, and it must be replaced in its original

position before hitting. If wind caused ball to move, play ball as it lies, no need to replace it.

7. Scoring

For speed of play USGA recommends a MAXIMUM score for each hole. I feel the easiest to understand would be the "DOUBLE PAR" where a player picks up once they have attained the score of 2X the par on a hole. For Individual, 2manBB and 4man2BB, a player shall report his total gross score on each hole, regardless of the ESC. The ESC is entered by the Scoring Chairman when posting the tournament results.

8. Scramble and Shamble Rules

Refer to Scramble or Shamble special link.

9. Forward tees

Players 80 years or older with a handicap index of 25 or higher are allowed to tee off from the forward tees (usually set as Ladies tees, not the junior tees).

10. Country Club Etiquette

When we're playing at a private Golf Country Club, we're GUESTS and we're expected to follow their club golf etiquette rules.

Country Club etiquette rules include, but are not limited to:

- appropriate golf attire (no denim or Tees, collared shirts tucked in),
- expectation that players fix their divots or ball marks on the greens, rake the bunker and leave the rake inside the bunker,
- park their cart away from the greens and do not damage the course.

Although we're providing an additional business, it does not need much for some Members to become disgruntled, to complain to their Club Board that we're not following their club etiquette rules and that as a consequence we might lose our permission to play there in the future.