

General Rules Information for Caddies

General – If your action breaches a Rule or would breach a Rule if the action was taken by your player, your player gets the penalty under that Rule. This document is not a substitute for the Rules of Golf and is provided to you only to serve as a general reminder of some common Rules that you should be aware of. You are encouraged to seek guidance from the Committee prior to starting play with any questions you might have regarding the Rules of Golf.

Clubs (Rule 4.1b(1)) – Your player may not start a round with more than 14 clubs or have more than 14 clubs during a round.

Distance Measuring Devices (Rule 4.3a(1)) – If you use a prohibited function on a distance-measuring device during a round (such as measuring elevation changes), your player is in breach of Rule 4.3 and gets the general penalty. The penalty for any second breach of Rule 4.3 (not limited to another DMD penalty) is disqualification.

Pace of Play (Rule 5.6) – A round of golf is meant to be played at a prompt pace. You should recognize that your actions as a caddie are likely to affect how long it will take your player and other players to play their round, including both those in your player’s own group and those in following groups.

Advice (Rule 10.2a) – You may give advice to your player only (in Four-Ball competitions you may also give advice to your player’s partner).

Restriction on Caddie Standing Behind Player (Rule 10.2b) – You should not position yourself in a location on or close to an extension of the line of play behind your player’s ball for any reason once your player begins to take his or her stance for the stroke to be made.

Bunkers (Rule 12.2b) – You should not touch sand or soil in any bunker until your player has played from the bunker and the ball has come to rest outside the bunker.

Putting Green (Rule 13.1) – When pointing out the line for your player, you may touch the putting green, but you may not set any object down when doing so.

Lifting the Ball (Rule 14.1) – You may lift your player’s ball without your player’s specific permission on the putting green only, but the ball’s spot must be marked before it is lifted. You are not allowed to lift another player’s ball or ball-marker without that player’s authority, which must be given for that specific instance.



When Ball is Lost or Out of Bounds (Rule 18.2a(1)) – You may assist any player in searching for their ball. A ball is lost if not found in three minutes after the player, or his or her caddie (or the partner or the partner’s caddie in Four-Ball) begins to search for it.

Transportation – You and your player must walk at all times during a round unless it is permitted on the Notice to Players or is otherwise authorized by the Committee. If the Committee authorizes transportation for a player (such as when a player is returning to the tee to take stroke-and-distance relief), you and your player and caddie should accept transportation from a member of the Rules Committee only. Players and caddies should not accept transportation during a round from any other individuals.

Questions on the Rules – If you have any question on the Rules of Golf during the round, please seek assistance from a referee.