

# USPMGA



Affiliate of World Putters Association



# RULE BOOK

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United States Pro Mini Golf  
**USPMGA Home Office**

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## CONSTITUTION AND GENERAL REGULATIONS

### CONSTITUTION OF THE MINIATURE GOLF ASSOCIATION

#### PART 1: GENERAL REGULATIONS

##### Art 1: NAME AND FORM

1. The USPMGA is the umbrella organization of all miniature golf players.
2. Members of the WMF are the national miniature golf association. There can be only one member for each nation.

#### Art 2: Aims of the USPMGA

1. To promote miniature golf and to take whatever measures are necessary to this end.
2. To represent the interest of its members at all levels with regard to the authorities, other sport associations, the mass media, and the public; in as far as this is not left up to the members.
3. To promote sporting contact between all miniature golf players and to organize tournaments and bring notice to WMF.
4. To monitor and ensure the keeping of the existing system-specific rules, to develop a set of standard rules (in as far as the technical peculiarities, of the courses allow it), and to draw up a sporting calendar.
5. To fight against doping agents and to support all measures for stopping the use of all forbidden stimulating means.

#### Art 3: Headquarters and Duration

1. The headquarters of the USPMGA is in North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.
2. The duration of the USPMGA is unlimited.

#### Art 4: Principles

1. The USPMGA stands for freedom in sport, its voluntary nature, and the community of sport. Members and miniature golf players cannot be forced, either by rules or in any other way, to play a different system of miniature golf to this chosen one.
2. The USPMGA makes no distinction of race or religion and is politically neutral.

#### Part 2: Membership

#### Art 5: There are two kinds of members

1. Active members
2. Honorary members

Art 6: Basic conditions for active members

1. USPMGA membership is open to all male and female players of all ages.

Art 7: Admission regulations for active members

1. There must be a written application to the USPMGA office containing a legally binding signature.
2. By joining the USPMGA you accept the constitution and the rules.

Art 8: Right to appeal of active members

1. An appeal against refusal of admission or an imposed sanction can be submitted to the USPMGA Executive Committee within 30 (thirty) days of the announcement and they will be notified by mail or e-mail on refusal or sanction.

Art 9: Termination of active membership

1. The membership of an active member expires with resignation or no fees paid. Fees must be paid by March to be a active member.
2. If an active member violates the interests of the USPMGA or WMF, damages its reputation, either intentionally or inadvertently, or disregards or violates the constitution and rules, sanctions can be taken against the active member concerned by the Executive Committee.

Art 10: Honorary members

1. On the suggestion of the USPMGA President can elect honorary members, for services to USPMGA.
2. Honorary members have no voting rights. Will not have any fees to be paid. Otherwise they are treated as equal as active members.

## **Part 3: Organizations**

### **Art 11: USPMGA HOME OFFICE**

1. USPMGA Home office is the highest decision-making authority in the USMPGA. It determines on all questions of a fundamental nature in miniature golf, where this right is not reserved for the members. The Home Office lays down the guidelines for the running of the USPMGA.
2. The Home Office is authorized amongst other things to carry out the following:
  - a. Appointment of Executive Committee members.
  - b. Appointment of members of the Technical Commission, Youth Committee, and Senior Committee.
  - c. Relieving Executive Committee members of duties.
  - d. Setting of membership fees and tournament fees.
  - e. Decisions on the appointment or dissolving of special committees.
  - f. Exclusion of members
  - g. Dissolution of the USPMGA

### **Art 12: Motions**

1. Motions can be proposed to the USPMGA Home Office by the following:
  - a. The Executive Committee
  - b. The Technical Committee
  - c. The Special Committee
2. Motions must be submitted with an explanation to the General Secretary. A compilation of the motions is distributed by the General Secretary to all members.

## **The Executive Committee**

### **Art 13: Structure**

1. The Executive Committee Consists of

- a. The President
- b. Sport Officer
- c. The Press Officer

Art 14: Appointees and length of office

The USPMGA Home Office appoints the Executive Committee members for a limited term of office for 3(three) years and can be repeatedly re-appointed.

Art 15: Quorum and the convening of the Executive Committee

1. The Executive Committee sits as required or at the request of 2 (two) of its members.
2. The shortest period of time in which a meeting can be convened is 30 (thirty) days.

Art 16: Areas of responsibility and duties

1. The following areas of responsibility and duties, among others are allocated to the Executive Committee:
  - a. The administration of the USPMGA
  - b. The drawing-up of periodic reports and accounts.
  - c. Preparation for the Delegates' Conference and drawing –up of the agenda.
  - d. The implementation of all the resolutions passed at the USPMGA Home Office.
  - e. Protection of the USPMGA interests internally and externally.
  - f. Admission of observers
  - g. Preparing changes in the constitution and rules.
  - h. Supervision of the USPMGA
  - i. To impose temporal limited and unlimited bans if there are violations against the prohibition of doping.
  - j. Supervision of the activities of the committee and Technical Commission
  - k. To prepare any new rules or rule changes
2. The Executive Committee draws up a program of functions and duties for its members. Art 17: Legal validity

The Executive Committee itself determines whose signature are legally binding and its members.

## **The Technical Commission**

Art 18: Structure

1. The Technical Commission consist of
  - a. The Sports Officer
  - b. The Youth Officer
  - c. The Senior Officer
  - d. And 2 (two) further members, they cannot be members of the Executive Committee
2. The Youth Officer, Senior Officer, and 2 (two) members of the technical Commission are appointed from the appointed from the Ordinary Delegates' Conference for one term of office (the term between two ordinary Delegate's Conferences).They can be reappointed repeatedly.

Art 19: Areas of responsibility and duties

1. The technical Commission is an advisory body of the Executive Committee. The Technical Commission can pass resolutions for inviting entries for competitions, which are organized by the USPMGA.
2. The following are some of the areas of responsibility and duties the Technical Commission is conferred with.
  - a. An advisory role in general questions of miniature golf
  - b. Technical supervision of USPMGA championships and other tournaments organized by the USPMGA
  - c. The passing or resolutions on drafts of general rules and regulations in miniature golf.
  - d. The right to propose venues for USPMGA for introduction and passing to the Executive Committee.

Art 20: The act of convening quorum and motions

1. The Technical Commission sits once a year before the annual meeting of the Presidency. Beyond that the Technical Commission convenes with acceptance of the management, if especially important matter arise which cannot be postponed.
2. The Technical Commission is convened by the Sports Officer.
3. The Technical Commission has a quorum, if at least 2 (two) members are present. Each member has a personal vote which is not transferable.
4. Motions can be put forward to the Technical Commission by
  - a. The active members
  - b. The Executive Committee
  - c. The Committees
  - d. The Members of the Technical Commission

5. Minutes must be taken down on all resolutions passed by the Technical Commission and distributed to all TC members, the Executive Committee, the active members and the observers not later than 60 (sixty) days after the minutes are distributed. In that case, the matter must be treated on the following meeting of TC.

## **The Youth Committee**

### **Art 21: Structure**

1. The Youth Committee consist of
  - a. The Youth Officer(chairman)
  - b. Further 2 (two) members, they cannot be members of the Executive Committee
  - c. These 2 (two) members of the Youth Committee are appointed from the Ordinary Delegate's Conference for one term of office (the term between two Ordinary Delegate's Conferences). They can be reelected repeatedly.

### **Art 22: Areas of responsibility and duties**

1. Advice on youth related matters in the USPMGA
2. The technical supervision of junior tournaments organized by the USPMGA
3. Advice and passing of resolutions on all necessary issues of a technical sports nature, which are required for the organization of junior tournaments mentioned.
4. The right to propose venues for the USPMGA junior miniature golf championships.
5. The Youth Committee is an advisory body. It presents its recommendations and proposals in the form of motions to the Technical Commission, which passes them on to the Delegate's Conference or the Executive Committee.
6. The Youth Committee is convened by the chairman as required.
7. The chairman or 2 (two) members of the Youth Committee decide on the necessity to convene
8. The Youth Committee has a quorum if at least 2 (two) members are present.
9. Minutes must be taken down on resolution passed by the Youth Committee and distributed to all Youth Committee members, the Executive Committee, the Technical Commission, the active members, and the observers not later than 60 (sixty) days after the passing of the resolutions.



## **The Seniors Committee**

### Art 23: Structure

1. The Senior Committee consist of
  - a. The Seniors officer (chairman)
  - b. And further 2 (two) members appointed at the Delegate's Conference. They must not be of the Executive Committee.

### Art 24: Areas of responsibility and duties

1. Advice on matters concerning seniors in the USPMGA
2. Technical supervision of senior competitions organized by the USPMGA.
3. Advice and decision-making on all technical questions in connection with the running of the senior competitions.
4. The right to propose venues for the USPMGA senior championships.
5. The Senior Committee is an advisory body. It presents its recommendations and proposals in the form of motions to the Technical Commission, which passes them on the Executive Committee.
6. The Seniors Committee is convened by the chairman as required.
7. The chairman or 2 (two) members of the Senior Committee decide on the necessity to convene.
8. The Seniors Committee has a quorum if at least 2 (two) members are present.
9. Minutes must be taken down on resolutions passed by the Seniors Committee and distributed to all Seniors Committee members, the Executive Committee, and the Technical Commission, the active members, and the observes not later than 60 (sixty) days after the passing of the resolutions.

## **Final Clauses**

### **Art 25: Changes in the rules**

1. Changes in the rules can only be passed by resolutions of the Executive Committee; a two-thirds majority of those entitled to vote is necessary.

### **Art 26: Disbanding of the USPMGA**

1. The USPMGA can be disbanded:
  - a. By amalgamation with other sport associations.
  - b. By liquidations
2. The disbanding of the USPMGA can only be passed by resolution in a specially convened Extraordinary Delegates Conference. A three-quarters majority of those delegates entitled to vote is necessary.
3. The disbanding of the USPMGA should be carried out; in as far as the Delegates Conference has not appointed others, by the Executive Committee.
4. In the case of amalgamation, any remaining assets will be bought into the amalgamation federation. In the case of liquidation, it will be made over to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for the non-profit-making sporting purpose.

### **Art 27: Rules and regulations:**

1. The Delegates' Conference, with the majority of the voters of those present, is responsible for the making, changing, and repealing of rules.
2. The Executive Committee alone is responsible for the making, changing, and repealing of regulations, and it can also give directions and make recommendations.

### **Art 28: Official languages:**

1. The official language of the USPMGA is English.

# **THE GAME**

## **MINIATURE GOLF COURSE AND EQUIPMENT**

### **1. The Course**

1.1 The miniature golf course (eighteen) clearly marked off “holes” or runs, which are numbered and must be in accordance with the standard regulations of their system.

1.2 A tournament-approved hole contains:

1. The actual playing area
2. The Boundary
3. The teeing-off markings
4. One or more obstacles
5. The border line (optional)
6. Repositioning markings (optional)
7. The target hole

1.3 Boundary

If a barrier does not mark the boundary, it should be marked in some other way. Barriers should be clearly visible for the purpose of play.

1.4 Teeing off Markings

Every hole must have teeing-off markings. The markings in a course or system must be standardized.

1.5 Obstacles

Obstacles must be functional in construction and design. They must be fixed for the purposes of play. Moveable parts, over or through which the ball is supposed to pass, are not allowed. Unfixed obstacles must be marked as such. Any decorations should not impair the functional value. Every obstacle must be different from the others in the same course, not only outwardly but also from playing point of view. At the same time its effects must be calculable.

1.6 Hole

The hole must be accessible to the teeing-off point. The diameter of the hole must not exceed 5 inches. The dimensions of the individual systems must be within these limits

## 2. Playing Equipment

### 2.1 General

The Game is played with Miniature golf clubs and Miniature golf balls.

### 2.2 Clubs

Miniature golf clubs can be used. The club must have no sights or gadgets for aiming. Allowed are notches and lines on the club head.

### 2.3 Balls

1. Adventure style course use USPMGA ball list ONLY.
2. You may select any golf ball from the ball list but you may only use one ball in a round.
3. The Executive Committee for various reasons can ban any ball from being used in the USPMGA tournaments.

## **UNITED STATES PRO MINIATURE GOLF ASSOCIATION RULES OF MINIATURE GOLF**

### 1. General

Miniature golf is played with ball and club on a miniature golf course. The aim is to get the ball from the teeing-off point to the target hole in a few strokes as possible.

### 2. Choice of Balls

1. A player is allowed only one ball per hole.
2. A ball, which has become so badly damaged during play that in the opinion of a referee it can no longer be properly played, or that has been lost on a run (and not found within five minutes) can be replaced by another ball. The next stroke should be taken from the last resting place of the damaged ball.
3. A ball in play can only be moved by a stroke of the club. It can only be played from a position of rest and can be touched by the club in the moment of the stroke.
4. Before every stroke the ball should be addressed with the club held in both hands (disabled players excused.)

5. A stroke is played when a player, in readiness to play, brings the club into contact with the ball thereby setting it in motion.

### Explanation

1. "Set in Motion" means when the ball leaves its position of rest.
2. Special regulations for a long-distance stroke:  
-The stroke is deemed to have been taken if under the direct influence of the stroke, the ball is set in motion (even when there is no contact between the club and the ball).
3. Strokes can only be taken when the ball is in play. Unintentional contact with the ball in the absence of clear readiness to play does not count as a stroke.

### **3. Readiness to play**

A player is deemed ready to play when addressing the ball (s)he begins a backswing. Any type of this movement from the club back and forth counts as readiness to play.

### **4. Ball in play**

1. If the ball is set in motion from the teeing-off marking on the hole or an obstacle.
2. If the ball is within the playing area but not yet in the hole.

### **5. Scoring**

Each stroke counts as a point. If the ball still has not been holed after six strokes, another point is added. The highest possible score at one hole is 7 (seven) unless there are penalty strokes involved.

### **6. Order of Play and the Playing of a Hole**

1. The holes should always be played in order 1-18, unless otherwise ordered by the tournament organizers or Tournament Director.
2. A hole can only be played once the previous player has played the hole and left the playing area.

3. When playing in groups the holes must always be played in the same order with the exception of play offs. A new hole can only then be played once last player of the group has finished the previous hole.

## **7. Teeing-off and Placement of a Ball**

1. The ball is to be played from the teeing-off point at the beginning of every hole. In all cases it is to be played from where it has come to rest unless the following situations occur:

- a. When a ball in play leaves the playing area and is placed at the point where it left the playing area.
- b. When a player is repositioning the ball due to the 8<sup>th</sup> rule.
- c. When a ball in play stays in an obstacle construction it must be repositioned in the direction from which the ball has come.
- d. When a ball in play rolls back over the tee-off comes to rest it is played from that point where it has passed the tee line.

## **8. A Holed Ball**

A ball is deemed to have been holed when it comes to rest in the hole.

Explanation:

Coming to rest means that the ball cannot leave the hole by itself **9. End of Play**

The playing of a hole is at an end either when the ball is holed or when six strokes have already been recorded, in observance to rule 5 (five).

## **10. The Path of the Ball**

1. A player may only touch a ball in play lying within the playing area under the supervision of his fellow players or the referee with the exception of the putting down or moving of the ball onto the provided marking. If the ball must be picked up for cleaning its position must be signed.
2. Each player is responsible for the cleanliness of the playing area. It is permitted to remove dirt from the playing area before the ball in play is moving.
3. The course of the ball in play must not be intentionally influenced either by the player or another person after the stroke has been played except for wind shielding from outside the playing area.
4. If the path of a ball in play is subject to outside influence (apart from weather), a referee (upon request) order the stroke to be retaken, providing the player does not thereby get an unfair advantage or disadvantage.
5. If a ball in play is moved again through outside influence after having clearly come to rest, it must be repositioned at the point where it first came to rest.

## **11. Entering the Playing Area**

The playing area must not be entered when a ball in play is moving. Otherwise the playing area can be entered when its permitted.

## **12. Penalties**

Penalties for the breaking of the rules of the game are contained in a special section "Penalties for offences during play in tournaments."

## **13. Exceptional Regulations**

If the special characteristics of a hole make it necessary, the Technical Committee can, if required, make special regulations which deviate from these rules on the suggestions of the national association. These should be published.

## **ORDERS AND PROHIBITIONS FOR TOURNAMENT PARTICIPANTS**

Tournament participants must comply with the rules of play, the general sports rules and laws, as well as the following:

1. Instructions given by the Tournament Director or by referees must be followed immediately.
2. No player may take alterations to the runs (exception: loosing of sand or dirt).
3. Defects observed must be reported to the Tournament Director or referee without delay. If the defects have not been eliminated, a player may protest to the referee-before the tournament begins. If this does not occur, the facilities are considered to be acceptable for the tournament.
4. Required tournament and practice attire will entail:
  - For Men: Collared shirts, shorts, long sport or dress pants
  - For Women: Same applies in addition to skortsEach individual should be wearing a pair of sport shoes (no thong or sandal shoes). Baseball hats or visors are permitted. Other attire may be permitted upon weather conditions. Individuals clothing may not advertise any other miniature golf association except the WMF, without approval by the USPMGA President.
5. As regards to scoring 2.6 must be observed.
6. The scorekeeper is obliged to watch the player carefully during play.
7. If a player violates current regulations this must be reported to a referee.
8. A player's attention must be drawn to the fact if he is about to play in a manner that constitutes an infringement of the rules (e.g. wrong positioning of the ball or club etc). After the stroke has been played neither the scorekeeper nor the observing fellow player may complain.



9. The order of play amongst players and moreover amongst members of a team must be adhered to as stipulated by the tournament organizers call if a referee has not decided something else. After each round the order of play among players must be changed. The first should play last, and the second first etc., as long as nothing else has been agreed upon.
10. A group must wait at the round they have just completed until the next run becomes free.
11. Only one group may wait at any run.
12. In the case of disagreements about the interpretation of rules, a referee must be immediately consulted (called in). Discussions amongst players are not permitted.
13. Unnecessary delays are not permitted.
14. Every player must be ready to start play on a run as soon as the player in front has correctly passed the borderline.
15. The first player of each group has 90 (ninety) seconds to play his first stroke at each hole in.
16. Time limit begins when the scorekeeper has written down the results.
17. A group of players must move onto the next hole as quickly as possible.
18. The score-cards should be submitted to the tournament organizers after every round as soon as possible, unless otherwise stated by the Tournament Director or referee.
19. While playing a hole, the run can only be stepped on or touched by the player concerned within the bounds of what is permitted.
20. During the tournament, practice strokes or rolling of balls on the runs are strictly forbidden.
21. With the exception of the player, a minimum of 4 foot must be kept from a ball in play. When a player addresses the ball, all other people must be at least 1 meter from the run (except when they are wind-shielding).
22. No objects may be put on the playing surface or on the obstacles during a tournament.
23. It is not permitted to make any changes to the run (e.g. the boring of holes). Players are not permitted to make any markings on or near the runs with writing implements, clubs,

cigarettes, or any other objects before or during a tournament. Ball bags and other objects must be left at least 1 foot from the edge of the run.

24. The use or carry of playing aids (e.g. aiming devices or spirit levels) is forbidden for all people on the tournament course. Hole plans can be used in all national and international competitions.
25. The lending of balls is allowed providing the tournament is not disturbed.
26. Players must not be impeded in any way during a tournament. This includes deliberately and unfairly causing a disturbance, shouting encouragements (which can lead to chain reactions) etc.
27. A player may only take a short break and leave his group with permission of a referee.
28. A player must notify the tournament organizers if for compelling reasons (s)he has to leave the course before the start of the next round.
29. A general interruption of the tournament (e.g. because of rain) can be ordered by the head referee and must be observed. The tournament is continued only when the head referee determines it.
30. During interruptions in a tournament, a player whose round was interrupted must notify the tournament organizers if (s)he wants to leave the facilities.
31. Tobacco, Alcohol, drugs:
  1. During the official tournament smoking is forbidden on the facilities (unless in smoking area)
  2. Before and during a tournament (also between the rounds) to consume or have possession of alcohol and drugs is forbidden.
  3. 31.1 and 31.2 goes also for referees, coaches, functionaries, hole judges and so on.
32. The referee's decision should be accepted without argument. Written appeals to the tournament organizers can be submitted by the player 10 (ten) minutes after the end of the round of playing group concerned.
33. A player can only pull out of a tournament with the agreement of the head referee and only if the referee has convincing reasons to do so.

34. Unsporting behavior is not allowed. It is deemed to be unsporting, for example, when a player throws his/her club away in annoyance (with the exception of the case where a player may drop his/her club in annoyance particularly at the end of the round), when (s)he miss hits on purpose, or when (s)he does not comply with the decisions of the referee or the tournament organizers.
35. Mobile phones or other electrical devices/receivers are not to be carried along in an operational state during the competition rounds. A violation is punished as lack of sportsmanship (Tournament Organizers may carry radios).

## **Scorekeeping**

1. Changes to the score can only be made within the bounds of the expressly permitted possibilities.
2. A player's score is kept by his playing partner, the hole judge, or a scorekeeper appointed by the head referee or the tournament organizers. In groups of 2 (two) or more players the last player keeps score for the first and the first for the second.
3. Before the score is entered in the scorecard it should be announced.
4. Entries in the scorecard should be carefully carried out immediately after being announced. Great care should be taken that the correct score is entered in the correct place.
5. Unless it has been otherwise determined, it is forbidden for a group of players to have their own scorekeeper.
6. Each player should make sure on submission of his scorecard that the entries have been correctly made, even when a special scorekeeper has done the scorekeeping.
7. Incorrect entries should be corrected under the observance of 9 (nine) and 10 (ten).
8. Incorrect entries should be crossed out in such a way that they remain legible, and the correct score should be written next to it and initialed.
9. In groups of 2 (two) players corrections should be made and initialed by a referee, and in larger groups only when there is a disagreement within the group. If there is agreement, the correction is made by the scorekeeper and initialed by all players of that group. When

a referee and the whole group makes a change and where applicable the scorekeeper should be consulted as to whether the change is justified.

10. Each player is responsible for the correct keeping of their score.
11. A change can no longer be made if a subsequent score has already been entered for the player concerned.
12. At the end of a round each player is obliged to work out or check their score along with their partner(s). The player should initial their own upon completion of each round.
13. The scorecards are issued as a complete set (ordered 1-2-3) to the entire group of players. In a group of 3 (three), player 3 (three) gives the scorecard to player 1 (one). Player 1 (one) can check the entry. Player 1 (one) notes the score for player 2 (two) then gives the scorecards to player 2 (two) who will then check their own score before noting the score for player 3 (three). Player 3 (three) takes the cards and checks their score. The group can then go to the next hole. The scorecards should always be given from 1 (one) player to another as a complete set and in such way that the score of the player receiving them is visible to him.

## **Penalties for Infringements during Tournament**

1. The following comprises a list of the penalties which have been set in place during tournaments.
2. Infringements of the playing or the general sporting rules are punished in general by a caution. Warnings are possible for small infringements (such as technical infringements of the peculiarities of a hole).
3. Coaches are subject to the same penalties as players with the exception of the rules on penalty points.
4. The following penalties are the least possible. A disqualified player must leave the tournament course immediately.
5. All decisions of the referee must be recorded on the scorecard. Penalties for infringements of general sporting rules are as followed:
  - 5.1 Unsporting behavior (depending on the severity of the case) First warning  
Second warning and 1 (one) penalty point  
First caution and 2 (two) penalty points

- Second caution and 5 (five) penalty points
- Disqualification and 4 (four) week ban
- 5.2 Improper Attire Disqualification
- 5.3 Smoking, possession or consumption of alcohol Disqualification and 1 (one) year ban
- 5.4 Playing in spite of ban  
Disqualification and 18 (eighteen) month ban
- 5.5 Offensive language towards a referee, members of the jury, a tournament or association functionary  
Disqualification and 1 (one) year ban
- 5.6 Deliberately false scorekeeping by scorekeeper Disqualification and 6 (six) month ban
- 5.7 Violence of any kind  
Disqualification and 1 (one) year ban
- 5.8 USPMGA should be informed of a penalty resulting of a ban and it should be published accordingly.
- 6. Penalties for infringements of the scorekeeping regulations:
  - 6.1 Infringements of the scorekeeping regulations entail the following penalties: A caution for all those involved (players and scorekeepers), and in addition 1 (one) to 10 (ten) penalty strokes for the player concerned. The number of strokes too many noted down should be added to this as penalty strokes.
  - 6.2 4 (four) cases of infringements of the scorekeeping regulations can be distinguished:
    - 1. A player has falsely entered a score for a hole is only noticed when the player's score for a subsequent hole is noted. In this case the penalty strokes should be calculated so that one stroke more than the actual score is added. If necessary, the entered score should be reduced (e.g. if more than one stroke too many has been entered, which is the only case where a correction is allowed after the above mentioned further entries).
    - 2. A falsely entered score is noticed by the player but not queried (which happens only in a case where the entered score is too low), and this can be indisputable proved. In this case the player will receive 10 (ten) penalty points.

NOTE: The player's acquiescence must be proved.

3. It emerges that a score for a hole has not been entered. The player concerned gets 7 (seven) penalty strokes for the missing hole and this is entered in the remaining empty square. The player responsible for the keeping that score will receive 4 (four) penalty strokes. Exception: A forgotten entry for hole 18 (eighteen) can be added after submitting the card to the tournament organizers providing the player has not yet signed or initialed the scorecard and the other players in the group can confirm the score.
  4. If a score is changed but not initialed the player concerned gets one penalty stroke, however if it can be proved that he made the change himself he is disqualified. In addition, the player and the scorekeeper are warned.
7. Penalties for Infringements of the rules of play:
- 7.1 For an unauthorized change of the ball at a hole with a ball that is not recognized as a golf ball will result in:  
Caution and 7 (seven) points for the hole concerned
  - 7.2 If the ball is moved by hand or club while not in a stroke manner or repositioning ball it will result in:  
A caution and 1 (one) penalty stroke
  - 7.3 For a playing of a hole before the previous player has completed and left the hole, playing out of turn, or beginning of the next hole before the last player of the group ahead has completed the previous hole will result in:  
A caution and restart at the hole concerned and strokes already taken added as penalty strokes.
  - 7.4 If the ball is played from the wrong repositioning point, or not correctly from the teeing off point it will result in:  
A caution and 1 (one) penalty stroke in addition to the stroke taken; the game should be continued from the correct repositioning point or teeing off point.
  - 7.5 If the position of a repositioned ball is changed again before the stroke it will result in:  
A caution and 1 (one) penalty stroke in addition to the stroke taken; the game should be continued from the first chosen repositioning point.
  - 7.6 If a player stops playing a hole before (s)he has holed out it will result in:  
A caution and 7 (seven) strokes for the hole concerned

- 7.7 For touching the ball unsupervised by the other players (except repositioning the ball onto the prescribed markings) will result in: A caution and 1 (one) penalty stroke
- 7.8 If the path of the ball is deliberately influenced by the player after the stroke it will result in:  
A caution and 7 (seven) strokes at this hole for the concerning player.
- 7.9 If another player deliberately influences the path of a ball after the stroke it will result in:  
A caution and 5 (five) penalty strokes for the concerning player
- 7.10 If a ball goes out of bounds it will result in:  
Reposition ball at point it went out of bounds and 1 (one) penalty stroke
8. Penalties for repeated cautions will result in:  
A player cautioned twice in the same tournament is disqualified
9. Penalties for infringements of the “Rules and Regulations for Tournament Participants”
- 9.1 Markings:  
Any player who can be proved to have made markings before and between the tournaments, are excluded from further participation in practice and tournament.
- 9.2 Use and/or possession of playing aids:  
An infringement will be dealt with as unsporting behavior.
- 9.3 Leaving the playing group without permission:  
Infringement of this rule can lead to disqualification without prior warning.
- 9.4 Dropping out of a tournament:  
A player who drops out of a tournament without the agreement of the referee is deemed to be guilty of unsporting behavior, and is dealt with accordingly.
- 9.5 Late arrival without permission to be absent:  
A player who is missing without permission to be absent when (s)he is called to play is given 7 (seven) strokes for every hole that his group has already played or begun. However (s)he can also be disqualified at the discretion of the refereeing committee.
- 9.6 Causing a disturbance during the tournament or practice:

The player or players involved will be cautioned and or a 1 (one) to 10 (ten) stroke penalty will be calculated to their scores.

9.7 Late arrival after a tournament is interrupted:

A player who is absent without permission when a tournament is continued after an interruption will be disqualified.

10. Penalties for other infringements

Other infringements of valid regulations lead to a caution at least. More severe penalties are given at the discretion of the head referee.

11. Referees can decide on less severe penalties in special cases (e.g. junior, amateurs, and/or new players).

## **Regulations for USPMGA Tournament**

1. Sports Clothing

1.1 Non Official Practice

- a. Sports or gym shoes must be worn.
- b. Sports caps and peaked caps may be worn.
- c. Advertising is allowed on jerseys and headgear in compliance with USPMGA regulations.
- d. In unfavorable conditions, weatherproof clothing is allowed.
- e. The referees' committee can approve exceptions on health grounds.

1.2 Official practice

- a. Sports clothing (collared shirts) must be worn

2. Inspections

2.1 Pre-inspections of a tournament course must be carried out by a USPMGA representative.

2.2 The courses should be inspected by the USPMGA officer responsible for these duties. The tournament organizer should do this on the last day before the official practice, to establish any shortcomings or peculiarities of construction. The result



of the inspections should be written down immediately and the Tournament Director should deal with any infractions or shortcomings as (s)he deems fit.

3. Entry to the tournament course

3.1 Only the referees, representatives of the tournament, holes judges, coaches, and players in the middle of a round are allowed entry to the course during a tournament. The head referee can authorize the presence of other people on the course if good reasons are presented.

3.2 Head referees, referees, coaches, hole judges, tournament organizers, and other authorized people can only enter the tournament course when they can be identified as such.

4. Press, Radio, and Television

4.1 Members of the press, radio and television are allowed on the course. An escort is appointed by the head referee to make sure that the smooth running of the tournament is not disturbed and any way.

5. Coaches

5.1 Coaches are allowed on the course during practice and tournament play, the same code of conduct with regards to sporting behavior applies to them as to the players. Except that they do not incur penalty points for infringements.

6. Playing in time at the respective starting hole

6.1 Each group of players has up to a minute in playing time at each hole before starting. The playing in time begins when the previous group leaves the hole and ends with starter's order (does not apply if a number of groups start simultaneously at different holes).

7. Practice and Entry Fee

7.1 The organizer must see to it that the course is closed during the course of a tournament. The entry fees and practice fees should be set in the currency of the organizing country at the preceding meeting of the Technical Commission in conjunction with the organizer.

8. Starting and time schedules

8.1 Starting and time schedules should be posted for all rounds at a clearly visible place on the course by 7 PM the day before, except in the case of summary final rounds.

9. Limits on number of competitors

9.1 The number of competitors should be limited appropriately according to the capacity of the facilities, and the time available for the tournament. Entries will be disregarded if they arrive after the closing date. When there is a limit on numbers, entries will be accepted according to the date they were sent until the

quota is filled. If necessary, the promoter can also reduce the previously announced limit.

#### 10. Prizes

10.1 Prizes should do justice to the significance of an international tournament, but need not be unreasonable costly.

#### 11. List of Scores

11.1 List of scores should be drawn up as quickly as possible and sent to the WMF Sport Officer and all participating clubs and their respective associations within three weeks.

## **Tournament Interruptions and Abandonment**

### 1. Official Decisions

1.1. The head referee has the right to interrupt the tournament. The reasons for interruption must be given (showers, persistent, heavy rain, thunder and lightning in close proximity).

The following guidelines should help:

### 1. Procedure

- 1.1. When the order is given to interrupt play, a player must play out a hole already started unless the head referee decides otherwise (e.g. in the case of a sudden cloudburst).
- 1.2. When play is interrupted at a hole, the ball should be removed and its position marked. The score at the interruption should be recorded separately on the scorecard. No one may play on.

## **Regulations of the Refereeing Committee**

1. Members of the refereeing committee (RC) must remain completely neutral while carrying out their functions on the competition course. A referee may not assume the role of a coach.
2. Composition of the refereeing committee:
  - 2.1 A refereeing committee consists of a 1 (one) head referee (HR) and 1 (one) referee.
  - 2.2 (two) substitute referees (SR) should be nominated if possible (at international tournament required)
  - 2.3 If there are several tournament groups, additional refereeing committees must be set up, if required.

3. If possible, members of the refereeing committee should not actively participate in the competition. Head referees and referees may not take part actively in World or European championships or the European Cup.
4. The refereeing committee must be easy to recognize (e.g. with arm bands, badge with name, etc.)
5. Area of responsibility
  - 5.1 Members of the refereeing committee
    - 5.1.1 Members of the refereeing committee can decide on all issues concerning rules and regulations, if these issues are not reserved for other bodies. They are allowed to give cautions and warnings and to disqualify players after a further warning as well as issue between 110 penalty strokes.
  - 5.2 Head Referee
    - 5.2.1 The head referee supervises the whole competition. He can intervene when he considers it necessary. Head referee is responsible for ensuring that the duties set out. Head referee takes the chair at referee committee meetings. Head referee is responsible for the following duties:
      - 5.2.1.1.1 Duties before play begins
      - 5.2.1.1.2 Decisions on general competition interruptions and changes in the time table.
      - 5.2.1.1.3 Head referee can delegate duties to the referee committee members. During short periods of absence, the head referee must name a replacement. This, however, does not relieve the head referee of their duties.
      - 5.2.1.1.4 Head referee have hole judges appointed, to whom the head referee can assign duties.
  - 5.3 Refereeing Committee:
    - 5.3.1 The refereeing committee takes decisions of the following:
      - 5.3.1.1 Protests about decisions taken by its members.
      - 5.3.1.2 Penalties given in which exceed the stipulations.
      - 5.3.1.3 Competition abandonment (involving if necessary all ruling referee committee's if a jury is not provided for.)
6. Duties before play (the head referee must pay heed to the following)

- 6.1 Dirt:
  - 6.1.1 Dirty runs must be cleared. Very strict standards must be imposed. The runs and the obstacles should if possible be dry. Any water in the target holes must be removed.
- 6.2 Properly erected obstacles:
  - 6.2.1 Moveable obstacles must be correctly placed within their markings. Necessary barriers must be thoroughly checked. If one of the runs includes a net, it must be checked that it is correctly suspended and that there are not holes in it.
- 6.3 Completeness of markings:
  - 6.3.1 The teeing off, repositioning, and border line markings must be complete and clearly visible.
- 6.4 Faults:
  - 6.4.1 Faults must be dealt with immediately, whereby the competition organizers must call for help if need be. Incorrect markings on or next to the run must be removed or made unrecognizable.
- 6.5 Weather conditions:
  - 6.5.1 In the case of changes in the weather conditions, a decision must be taken as to if and when the tournament should begin.
- 6.6 Notices:
  - 6.6.1 It must be ensured that all necessary and stipulated notices are posted.
- 7. Duties during the tournament
  - 7.1 Quiet conduct and decisions:
    - 7.1.1 During the tournament, each member of the referee committee must take care not to disturb the players. The referee must make decisions quickly and firmly without getting into discussions. In case of doubt or uncertainty, the head referee should be consulted.
  - 7.2 Presence and obligations to intervene:
    - 7.2.1 During the tournament, at least two members of the referee committee should be on the course at any one time to supervise the tournament. If a member of the referee committee notices infringements, the referee must intervene immediately.
  - 7.3 Decisions on disagreements over the interpretation of the rules:
    - 7.3.1 Where there are disagreements over the interpretation of the rules, all players of the group concerned must be consulted about the incident

before a decision is taken. Any further witnesses should also be consulted.

7.4 Cautions and penalty strokes:

7.4.1 Cautions and penalty strokes should be indicated on the front of the scorecard by clearly visible "C" or "P". The reason should be stated on the back if possible.

7.5 Undisturbed end of play:

7.5.1 Special care must be taken to ensure that the last players of a tournament group are able to complete the tournament undisturbed.

8. Additional Stipulations 8.1 Commencement of duties:

8.1.1 The head referee must be in attendance no later than 30 (thirty) minutes before play commences. The order referees must follow instructions given by the head referee.

8.2 Protest against decisions made by members of the refereeing committee:

8.2.1 Protest against decision made by the refereeing committee must be dealt with on the course concerned no later than the end of the game.

8.3 Completion of duties:

8.3.1 The refereeing committee has completed their duties ten minutes after the tournament has been completed or after protest has been dealt with.

8.4 Clothing:

Members of the refereeing committee must wear sport clothing.

## Doping Guidelines

1. General:

- a. These guidelines of the USPMGA for fighting against doping are based upon the world wide Anti-doping charter for fighting against doping.

2. Definitions:

- a. Doping is the attempt to raise the fitness of the sportsman or woman, using doping substances (oral, injection, or otherwise) by the sportsman or woman or an auxiliary person before or between a competition or in the training.
- b. Doping-substances are:
  - i. Stimulants (e.g. drugs with ephedrine) ii. Analeptics (camphor and strychnine derivatives) iii. Narcotics iv. Local anesthetics v. Hypnotics vi. Anti-depressants, psychoactive drugs vii. Diuretics viii. Substances, which relaxes muscles ix. Cortisone
  - x. Beta-receptor blockers xi. Alcohol xii. Caffeine (-15 ug /ml urine)

3. Prohibition:

- a. Using doping substances corresponding to the above is prohibited and will be punished accordingly.
- b. The USPMGA and its member organizations have clauses for the case of violation against the prohibition of doping in the contracts of employment with coaches (gross breach of contract).
- c. Using on medical grounds/exceptions:
  - i. On medical grounds the substances named must not be taken if the players are already in the competition.
  - ii. If the player has a medical attest for taking the medicament which contains substances of the doping list, these guidelines are not relevant.
  - iii. The medical attest must not be older than six (6) months. An attest of the public health officer is valid for twelve (12) months. 4. Injections of local anesthetics are tolerated under the following:
    - a. Using of Procaine, Xylocaine, Carbocaine, etc., but not Cocaine.
    - b. Only local injections or injections into the joints.
    - c. Existing of a medical indication.

5. Scope:

- a. These guidelines are valid for all players for the USPMGA and its member organizations.
- b. The USPMGA and its member organizations have to inform the players and auxiliary persons about these doping guidelines. This requirement is fulfilled, if there is information about doping in the announcement of a competition or in the “technical discussion”.
- c. The member organizations of the USPMGA are bound to have these doping guidelines in their statutes. They have to nominate bodies for doping-controls.

## 6. Doping Controls:

- a. Doping controls can be made during the training, before competitions and especially at all masterships and official tournaments.
- b. The member organizations of the USPMGA have to ensure that doping controls are made routinely.
- c. Doping controls are carried out with urine specimen. For alcohol tests the breath is controlled. If the test is positive, there can be made a blood alcohol test (in agreement with the player).
- d. Players and auxiliary persons must agree to doping controls in training and competition. Refusals of doping controls are punished like a positive doping test.
- e. The USPMGA or some other authority, which is nominated by the USPMGA, has to coordinate and prepare doping controls, especially at international competitions. Information of the promoters is not necessary. A room for the doping control must always be available.
- f. Doping controls which are demanded by other national or international organizations must be observed by the USPMGA or some other authority, which is nominated by the USPMGA.
- g. To simplify matters at preparations and realizations of doping controls the rules of the nation association are the basis and all participants have to accept them. Promoters of competitions of the USPMGA must make the doping guidelines available during the whole competition.

## 7. Punishments:

- a. If the use of doping substances has been proved, the USPMGA must take sanctions even if the doping test has been refused.
- b. Sanctions for players:
  - i. Punishments for doped players are as followed:
    1. Disqualification in the concerning competition
    2. At least one year suspension from tournaments
    3. In case of recurrence suspension for life
    4. Disqualification for one team players mean disqualification for the whole team
    5. All results are provisional till the end of the doping controls
    6. Already awarded prizes must be given back
- c. Sanctions for auxiliary persons:
  - i. Contracts of employment with coaches must contain the case of violation against the prohibition of doping and that case implies summary dismissal.
  - ii. This is also valid for auxiliary persons without a contract.



8. Announcements of decisions
  - a. Decisions of punishments must be announced immediately by the USPMGA and be sent to all member organizations otherwise, the results of doping controls must be kept confidential.
9. Acknowledgement of decisions of other national association:
  - a. Punishments regarding violation against the prohibition of doping (the case of recurrence, suspensions and disqualifications) will be accepted by all members of the USPMGA.
10. Realization of the doping guidelines:
  - a. The USPMGA is responsible for observing the doping guidelines and the USPMGA nominates an authority for realization of the doping controls.
11. Changes:
  - a. These doping guidelines can be changed or added by decision of the Executive committee.

#### General

Very important information: To receive any and all winnings and trophies, you will need to be present at the closing ceremony when your name is called. If you are not present when your name is called you will forfeit all money and trophies. NO QUESTIONS ASKED!

GOOD LUCK TO EVERY COMPETITOR FROM USPMGA STAFF