



Rules of Golf Education & Tournament Preparation Guide

Resources for MIAA Golf Coaches and Student-Athletes

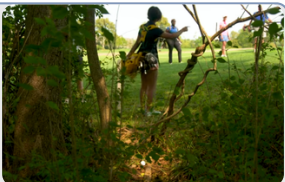
MIAA play is governed by the Rules of Golf as approved by the USGA and The R&A to support continued education and consistency in the application of the Rules of Golf, the following video resources have been compiled to assist MIAA coaches and golfers in understanding common situations encountered during competition.

These Rules of Golf educational videos are available through the USGA website by navigating to “Playing” → “Education.” ([Click here](#) to access the resources.) While the USGA Educational Center offers a wide variety of instructional videos, courses, and quizzes, we have highlighted 11 short video overviews covering the Rules topics most likely to arise during a round of golf.

These resources are intended to help coaches teach proper procedures, encourage confidence among student-athletes, and promote a consistent understanding of the Rules of Golf across MIAA competitions.

**1**

Ball Lost or Out of Bounds and Provisional Ball



**2**

Abnormal Course Conditions



**3**

Bunkers



**4**

Unplayable Ball



**5**

Penalty Areas



**6**

Nearest Point of Complete Relief



**7**

Movable Obstructions and Loose Impediments



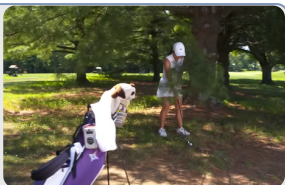
**8**

Putting Green



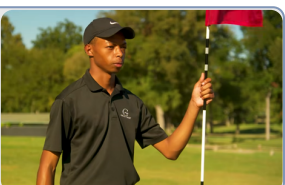
**9**

Playing the Course as You Find it



**10**

The Flagstick



**11**

Local Rules



In addition to these video resources, the USGA offers the **Rules 101 Free Online Course**, an introductory course designed to help golfers learn the fundamentals of the Rules of Golf and develop a stronger foundation for competition. [Click here](#) to access this free online course

Additional Rules of Golf Reminders for MIAA Tournament Play

In addition to the Rules of Golf resources provided above, the following Rules are important reminders for coaches, student-athletes, and tournament administrators as they prepare for postseason competition.

Starting Times – Rule 5.3a: When to Start a Round

Under **Rule 5.3a**, a player **must start at (and not before) their starting time established by the Committee**. A starting time is treated as an exact time. For example, a **9:00 a.m. starting time means 9:00:00 a.m.** — not 9:01, 9:02, or later.

For tournament purposes, the published starting time should be interpreted as **“balls in the air.”** Players must be ready to play when their starting time arrives.

Being ready to play means the player should:

- Be at the designated starting location;
- Have their clubs and equipment ready;
- Have a ball in hand and be prepared to begin play.

Practice Before a Stroke Play Round – Rule 5.2a

For **stroke play competitions**, players may **not practice on the competition course before their round on the day of the competition**.

This includes playing the course or testing course conditions prior to the start of the round.

This differs from **match play**, where practice on the course before the round is permitted unless the Committee establishes a restriction.