



## Tin Whistles Local Rules and Terms of Competition - 2026

### For regular Tin Whistle tournaments:

1. USGA Rules and Pinehurst Country Club Local Rules, except when modified by Local Rules/Notice to Players, will govern play.
2. Participation in TW golf competitions are limited to Regular TW members of any age. TW Social members are not eligible to play in TW golf competitions. TW Honorary members can play in TW tournaments but are not eligible for prize money or trophies.
3. Entry for TW golf competitions is done through the event registration page on the TW website. Registration for Saturday games closes at 11:00 AM on the day before the competition, unless a specific closure date is specified on the registration page. For games played on days other than Saturday, registration must be completed by the closure dates specified on the registration page.
4. A minimum of three foursomes must be signed up for the game to be conducted.
5. In times when inclement weather occurs after the game has started, at least 40% of players who were signed up to play must finish 18 holes for the game to count.
6. Handicap allowances used for TW competitions will incorporate the recommended handicap allowances as outlined in Appendix C of the USGA Rules of Golf.
7. Close Of Competition - The competition is closed at the conclusion of the prize ceremony or, in absence of a prize ceremony, when all scores have been approved by the Committee (Captain) or person responsible for closing the Game (tournament) in Golf Genius.

The result of a match is final when the Committee (Captain) has received the result of the match.

8. The Tournament Committee the following payout schedule will be followed for 4-Man competitions:
  - If less than 3 teams complete the round, there is no game
  - 3-5 teams participating – Only 1st place will be awarded.
  - 6-8 teams participating – 1st - 2nd
  - 9 -11 teams participating – 1st – 3rd
  - 12-14 teams participating – 1st - 4th
  - 15+ teams – 1st – 5th
9. Tie Breaker - Ties between teams will be broken using a scorecard playoff, aka Match of Cards (MOC). If the tying teams have the same score for the round, the tie is broken based on the score for the last nine holes, last six holes, last three holes and finally the 18th hole. If there is still a tie, then the last six holes, last three holes and final hole of the first nine holes will be considered in turn. For a scorecard playoff, the last nine holes, last six holes, etc. is holes 10-18, 13-18, etc., independent of the hole where players start their round (shotgun), or which nine is played first.

## 10. Preferred Lies (Lift, Clean, and Place) in closely mown areas on the hole being played:

PLAY the BALL As It Lies unless noted otherwise prior to the start of play. The ball must be played as it lies, except as otherwise provided in the Rules. Model Local Rule E-3. The Weather and Course Conditions on the Pinehurst website that are posted each morning dictate play for that day. When the Weather and/or Course Conditions dictate "Cart Path Only" for the ENTIRE course, Preferred Lies, Model Local Rule E-3 will be in effect unless directed otherwise.

- Clarification 1: When the Weather and Course Conditions or the course Starter dictate individual holes as cart path only (i.e., hole 1 on Course #8, hole 11 on Course 6, etc.), Preferred Lies, Model Local Rule E-3 is NOT in effect and the ball must be played as it lies for all holes.
- Clarification 2: When the course conditions change after the start of the event, moving the field to Cart Path Only, Model Local Rule E-3 is NOT in effect and the ball must be played as it lies for all holes.
- Clarification 3: If a game is played on Course No 2 or Course No 4, determination will be made by the committee for use of Model Local Rule E-3

Exception 1: For the period December 15 through the last day of February, inclusive, Preferred Lies, Model Local Rule E-3 is in effect for all Tin Whistle events unless directed otherwise.

## 11. Out-of-bounds Procedures

For the 10 Major TW Tournaments – Stroke and Distance  
For all other TW Tournaments – Local Rule E-5 applies

12. If a team has a player who is a no-show or last-minute withdrawal for any reason, it will be the responsibility for another team member to notify the Captain as soon as possible. Notification of a withdrawal or no-show player can be done by text or calling the Captain at 614-306-9381. A group must have a least two (2) players for a 4 Man game.

Upon notification, a BLIND will be assigned to the team. The BLIND is selected through an electronic random procedure, and the BLIND will be notified that as a BLIND he must putt everything out, and that he shares in any team winnings. However, the individual who is assigned as the blind can only win one way between the original group they were in and the other group(s) where they were a blind. They will share the winnings of the team they were part of that finishes the highest.

For a 4-Man game, a single blind will be randomly drawn from the participating field to supplement any team with less than 4 players:

- 3 players + blind – plays as a 4-Man team
- 2 players + blind – plays as a 3-Man team (this is not an option for games where more than 3 balls per hole are counted)

A blind will not be used for 2-Man games:

- Find a different partner if original partner drops
- Play as a single with another team (threesome) and compete in the event

- Play as a marker for another team (threesome) and not compete in the event

13. It is acceptable for a team to play a different Pinehurst course if not enough tee times are available on the assigned tournament course. The Captain will score the group using USGA slope/rating differences.

14. The Golf Genius Tournament Management System will be used to capture players' scores for all Tin Whistle tournaments.

- All teams must record scores after each hole has been played into the Golf Genius mobile application. At any time during the play of a round, any delay for entry of scores into Golf Genius MUST NOT exceed three holes.
- A physical scorecard should also be used and checked against the GG score at the end of the round – this provides confirmation of the scores and is a backup in case there is a Golf Genius technical issue.
- Following the completion of a round, the entry of scores into GG MUST not exceed 15 minutes.
- If a team has trouble with entering scores into Golf Genius and are unable to do so, the physical score card will be used. A photo of the card must be taken and sent to [captain@thetinwhistles.org](mailto:captain@thetinwhistles.org) within 30 minutes of completing the round.
- Failure to adhere to these scoring practices may result in disqualification from the event.

Golf Genius Administrators will have access to the leaderboard to monitor adherence to score entry practices.



## Pinehurst Country Club LOCAL RULES - 2025



Play is governed by the Rules of Golf Effective 2023 except as amended by the following Local Rules.

**OUT OF BOUNDS** – The course side edge at ground level of white stakes or white stakes with colored tops. A ball which crosses a public road (ex. St. Andrews Road, Hwy 5, Morganton Rd.) defined as out of bounds and comes to rest beyond that road is out of bounds, even though it may lie on another part of the course. MLR-A5 Exception – when the routing of the hole crosses a public road

**GROUND UNDER REPAIR** – A) Areas completely encircled by white lines. B) French drains filled with rocks or stone. C) Areas in bunkers or sandy areas in the General Area where sand has been moved by the movement of water resulting in deep furrows through the sand.

**ROADS AND PATHS** – Artificially surfaced paths are Obstructions. All other paths are integral objects. Free relief is not available from sand or dirt paths and roads. Where areas of damaged ground are right next to an artificially surfaced road or path they are a single abnormal course condition, whether marked and tied into the road or path or not. MLR F-3.1/3.2

**EDGING GROOVE** – The edging grooves around aprons or fringes of putting greens are ground under repair. If a player's ball lies in or touches a groove or a groove interferes with the area of intended swing: A) Ball in General Area – The player may take free relief under Rule 16.1b B) Ball on the Putting Green – The player may take relief under Rule 16.1d. Interference does not exist for line of play or area of intended stance. MLR F-19

**AERATION HOLES:** If a ball lies in or touches an aeration hole: (A) Ball in the General Area – the player may take relief under Rule 16.1b. If the ball comes to rest in another aeration hole the player may take relief again under this local rule. (B) Ball on the Putting Green – the player may take relief under Rule 16.1d. Interference does not exist if the aeration hole only interferes with the player's stance or, on the putting green, on the player's line of play. MLR E-4

**OBSTRUCTIONS** – A) Log posts & rope near cart paths. B) Sprinkler control boxes. C) Water fountains. D) Staked trees; relief is for the stakes and rope, not the tree itself. E) Starter's house, restrooms, or any other like structure. F) Bird nest boxes and tarps

**TEMPORARY IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS (TIO):** Circulation fans and tarps are TIO's. Relief is for stance, area of swing, or if the TIO intervenes directly between the ball and the hole and is on the line of play. MLR F-23 Relief may be taken 'either side'.

**TEMPORARY HOLE PLUGS** – The plugs or covers on the Putting Green are Immovable Obstructions. Relief will be for stance, area of intended swing, lie of ball, and if the ball lies on the putting green, interference on the line of play. (See Rule 16.1d)

**SANDY AREAS & Bunkers:** Bunkers are defined as “a specially prepared area of sand, which is often a hollow from which turf or soil was removed”. All sandy/natural areas that are not bunkers are part of the General Area. Note: no free relief for an embedded ball in loose sand in these areas.

**IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS CLOSE TO PUTTING GREEN** – Lie of ball and obstruction must be in a closely mown area. Relief from interference by an Immovable Obstruction may be taken under Rule 16.1. MLR F-5.2

**YELLOW PENALTY AREAS** – Defined by yellow stakes/lines. If both are used, stakes identify the penalty area and lines define the edge of the penalty area. When the edge is defined by stakes, the course side edge of the stakes at ground level defines of the penalty area.

**RED PENALTY AREAS** – Defined by red stakes/lines. If both are used, stakes identify the penalty area and lines define the edge of the penalty area. When the edge is defined by stakes, the course side edge of the stakes at ground level define the penalty area.

**PROVISIONAL BALL FOR A BALL IN A PENALTY AREA** – Course No. 8, Hole #14 ONLY: If a player does not know whether their ball is in the penalty area, the player may play a provisional ball under Rule 18.3. MLR B-3

**RELIEF ON OPPOSITE SIDE OF RED PENALTY AREA** – Course No. 6, Hole #10 | Course No. 7, Hole #12: When a player's ball is found in, or it is known or virtually certain to have come to rest in, any red penalty area that coincides with a boundary

**Pinehurst Country Club  
LOCAL RULES - 2025**

of the course, and the point where the ball last crossed the edge of the penalty area is on the boundary side of that penalty area, the player may drop the original ball or another ball on the opposite side of the penalty area. MLR B-2.1.

**BACK ON THE LINE RELIEF** - When taking Back-On-the-Line relief, there is no additional penalty if a player plays a ball that was dropped in the relief area required by the relevant Rule (Rule 16.1c(2), 17.1d(2), 19.2b or 19.3b) but came to rest outside the relief area, so long as the ball, when played, is within one club-length of where it first touched the ground when dropped.

**ALTERNATIVE TO STROKE AND DISTANCE** Model Local Rule MLR E-5 is effect

The following Model Local Rules as described in the Officials Guide to the Rules of Golf effective January 2023, are referenced in the Pinehurst Local Rules 2025:

A-5 Out of Bounds When Public Road Runs Through Course

B-2 (2.1 Applies) Relief on Opposite Side of Red Penalty Area

B-3 Provisional Ball for Ball in a Penalty Area

E-3 Preferred Lies (when applicable) – Closely mown of the hole being played, one club length relief area

E-4 Relief from Aeration Holes – only if ball rests in aeration hole, not stance, line of play or swing

E-5 Alternative to Stroke and Distance for Lost Ball or Ball Out of Bounds

F-3 (3.1 and 3.2 applies) Ground Under Repair Treated as Part of Nearby Obstruction

F-5 (5.2 applies) Immovable Obstructions Close to Putting Greens – ball and obstruction must be in closely mown area

F-19 Edging Grooves Near Putting Greens – ball and intended swing only, not stance

F-23 (e(2) applies) Temporary Immovable Obstructions – ‘either side’ relief applies



## The Tin Whistles Local Rules and Terms of Competition

Play is governed by The Rules of Golf as approved by the United States Golf Association and the R&A govern play. Complete text of Rules and Local Rules may be found in the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf, effective August 2023 and in the addendum accompanying this notice. Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule is the general penalty.

**LOCAL RULES** - Pinehurst Country Club Local Rules apply unless modified by these specific Local Rules. Specific Local Rules for away tournaments will be posted by the Tournament Committee.

**TEEING AREA** - The teeing area a player is to play from are listed on the official tournament score card or on the electronic scoring application.

**PREFERRED LIES** – see statement in Terms of Competition

**DROP ZONES** - Players will be informed of Drop Zones, if any, prior to the start of play.

**IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS CLOSE TO PUTTING GREEN** – See Pinehurst Country Club Local Rules

**ELEVATED POWER LINES** – Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule E-11.

**GROUND UNDER REPAIR** —Defined by WHITE Lines 2. French drains 3. White-lined areas tying into artificially surfaced roads and paths 4. White-lined areas of ground under repair and the artificially surfaced roads, paths or other identified obstructions that they are connected to are a single abnormal course condition when taking relief under Rule 16.1.

**RELIEF FROM SEAMS OF CUT TURF** — Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule F-7.

**EDGING GROOVES NEAR PUTTING GREEN** - Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule F-19.

**INTEGRAL OBJECTS** — Include cables, rods, wires and wrappings when closely attached to trees, and artificial walls and pilings when located in penalty areas and bunkers, and bunker liners. An exposed bunker liner may be treated as ground under repair, but interference does not exist if the liner interferes with only the player's stance.

**ROUND** - Except at shotgun start events, the round consists of two nine-hole rounds. The Nine-hole scores may be used in the event of inclement weather.

**TIES, PLAYOFFS & PRIZE DISTRIBUTION** – Except when the Terms of Competition require a hole-by-hole playoff, a scorecard match will be used to determine 1st place, and last place paid in a division using the Matching Scorecard methodology outlined in the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf.

**FINAL DECISIONS ON ANY DISPUTED POINTS** will be made by The Tin Whistles Captain and the Tournament Committee whose decision shall be final.

## Model Local Rules

### Model Local Rule E-3 - Preferred Lies

When any part of a player's ball touches part of the *general area* cut to fairway height or less on the hole being played, free relief once by placing the original ball or another ball in and playing it from this *relief area*:

- Reference Point: Spot of the original ball.
- Size of Relief Area Measured from Reference Point: **one club length** from the reference point, but with these limits:
- Limits on Location of Relief Area:
  - Must not be nearer the *hole* than the reference point, and
  - Must be in the *general area*.

In proceeding under this Local Rule, the player must choose a spot to place the ball and use the procedures for *replacing* a ball under Rules 14.2b(2) and 14.2e. But, for the purposes of applying Rule 14.2e, the player has only chosen the spot on which to place the ball once the ball has been set down, and the player has let the ball go with the intent for that ball to be in play.

After a ball has been placed and is in play under this Local Rule, if the player then proceeds under another Rule that provides relief, this Local Rule may be used again.

**Penalty for Playing Ball from a Wrong Place in Breach of Local Rule: General Penalty Under Rule 14.7a.**

### Model Local Rule E-5 – Alternative to Stroke and Distance

When a player's ball has not been found or is *known or virtually certain* to be *out of bounds*, the player may proceed as follows rather than proceeding under *stroke and distance*.

For **two penalty strokes**, the player may take relief by *dropping* the original ball or another ball in this *relief area* (see Rule 14.3):

#### Two Estimated Reference Points:

a. Ball Reference Point: The point where the original ball is estimated to have:

- Come to rest on the *course*, or
- Last crossed the edge of the *course* boundary to go *out of bounds*.

b. Fairway Reference Point: The point of fairway of the hole being played that is nearest to the ball reference point, but is not nearer the *hole* than the ball reference point.

For purposes of this Local Rule, "fairway" means any part of the *general area* cut to fairway height or less.

If a ball is estimated to be *lost* on the *course* or last crossed the edge of the *course* boundary short of the fairway, the fairway reference point may be a grass path or a teeing ground for the hole being played cut to fairway height or less.

Size of Relief Area Based on Reference Points: Anywhere between:

- A line from the *hole* through the ball reference point (and within two *club-lengths* to the outside of that line), and
- A line from the *hole* through the fairway reference point (and within two *club-lengths* to the fairway side of that line).

But with these limits:

#### Limits on Location of Relief Area:

- Must be in the *general area*, and
- Must not be nearer the *hole* than the ball reference point.

Once the player puts a ball *in play* under this Local Rule:

Revised 4/30/2025

- The original ball is no longer *in play* and must not be played.
- This is true even if the ball is found on the *course* before the end of the three-minute search time (see Rule 6.3b).

But the player may not use this option to take relief for the original ball when:

- That ball is *known or virtually certain* to have come to rest in a *penalty area*, or
- The player has played another ball provisionally under penalty of *stroke and distance* (see Rule 18.3).

A player may use this option to take relief for a provisional ball that has not been found or is known or virtually certain to be out of bounds.

**Penalty for Playing Ball from a Wrong Place in Breach of Local Rule: General Penalty Under Rule 14.7a.**

### **Model Local Rule E-11 – Ball Deflected by Power Line**

If it is *known or virtually certain* that a player's ball hit during the play of any hole, the player must replay the *stroke* by playing the original ball or another ball from the spot that stroke was made (see Rule 14.6).

If the player fails to replay the *stroke* but does so from a *wrong place*, they get the *general penalty* under Rule 14.7a.

If the player does not replay the *stroke*, they get the *general penalty* and the *stroke* counts, but the player has not played from a *wrong place*.

### **Model Local Rule F-5.2 – Immovable Obstructions Close to Putting Greens**

Relief from interference by an immovable obstruction may be taken under Rule 16.1.

The player has an extra option to take relief when such immovable obstructions are on or close to the putting green and on the line of play, This Local Rule only applies when both the ball and the obstruction are in part of the general area cut to fairway height or less.

Ball in General Area. The player may take relief under Rule 16.1b if an immovable obstruction is:

- On the line of play, and is:
  - On or within two club-lengths of the putting green, and
  - Within two club-lengths of the ball.

But complete relief must be taken, which includes both physical and line of play interference.

**Exception – No Relief If Line of Play Clearly Unreasonable.** There is no relief under this Local Rule if the player chooses a line of play that is clearly unreasonable.

**Penalty for Playing Ball from a Wrong Place in Breach of Local Rule: General Penalty Under Rule 14.7a.**

### **Model Local Rule F-7 – Seams of Cut Turf**

If a player's ball lies in or touches a seam of cut turf or a seam interferes with the player's area of intended swing:

(a) Ball in General Area. The player may take relief under Rule 16.1b.

(b) Ball on Putting Green. The player may take relief under Rule 16.1d.

But interference does not exist if the seam only interferes with the player's *stance*.

All seams within the area of cut turf are treated as the same seam in taking relief. This means that if a player has interference from any seam after *dropping* the ball, the player must proceed as required under Rule 14.3c(2) even when the ball is still within one club-length of the reference point.

**Penalty for Playing Ball from a Wrong Place in Breach of Local Rule: General Penalty Under Rule 14.7a.**

## **Matching Scorecards (Also Known as a Scorecard Count-Back)**

If a play-off is not feasible or desired, the Terms of the Competition may specify that any ties will be decided by matching scorecards. Even when the winner of a competition is to be decided by a play-off, other positions in the competition may be decided by matching scorecards. The method of matching scorecards should also provide for what will happen if this procedure does not produce a winner.

One method of matching scorecards is to determine the winner based on the best score for the last round. If the tying players have the same score for the last round or if the competition consisted of a single round, determine the winner based on the score for the last nine holes, last six holes, last three holes and finally the 18th hole. If there is still a tie, then the last six holes, last three holes and final hole of the first nine holes will be considered in turn. If the round is less than 18 holes, the number of holes used in matching scores may be adjusted.

If this process does not result in a winner, the Committee could consider the competition a tie, or alternatively could decide the winner by chance (such as tossing a coin).

Matching scorecards is also known as a card count-back or a scorecard play-off.

Additional Considerations:

- If this method is used in a competition with a multiple tee start, it is recommended that the “last nine holes, last six holes, etc.” are holes 10-18, 13-18, etc.
- For net competitions where the stroke index allocation as set by the Committee is not used, such as individual stroke play, if the last nine, last six, last three holes scenario is used, one-half, one-third, one-sixth, etc. of the handicaps should be deducted from the score for those holes. Handicap stroke fractions should be applied in accordance with the rules or recommendations contained within the Handicap System operating in the local jurisdiction.
- In net competitions where the stroke index allocation as set by the Committee is used, such as Four-Ball stroke play, Par/Bogey or Stableford competitions, handicap strokes should be applied consistently with how they were applied for the competition.