



# 2024 Indian Peaks Men's League

## Notice to Competitors

This information applies to all sanctioned men's league events in 2024

**The Rules of Golf** of the United States Golf Association and The R&A effective January 2023 govern play. Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a local rule or condition is the General Penalty: 2 Strokes in stroke play or Loss of Hole in match play.

**Tees:** Provided in individual event information sheet.

**Format:** Provided in individual event information sheet.

**Drop Zone:** On **Hole #7** where the ball is known or virtually certain to be in the Penalty Area, the clearly marked drop zone may be used in addition to any of the options provided in Rule 17.1d.

**Ties:** In all stroke play events, except the Club Championship, ties will be broken using the USGA preferred method. In order, these holes will be compared, using appropriate handicap allocations: holes 10-18, holes 13-18, holes 16-18, hole 18, #1 handicap hole, #2 handicap hole and so on until the tie is broken. For the club championship and any other event so specified, an on-course hole-by-hole playoff will break the tie. The playoff will be on hole(s) to be determined by the Committee or golf shop.

For match play events where ties must be broken, the match will continue on hole(s) determined by the Committee or golf shop.

**Out of Bounds:** is defined by white stakes, white lines, course side edges of sidewalks curbs or streets, and boundary fences. When both white stakes and white lines are present, the stakes identify the boundary, and the freshly painted lines define it. When stakes are present without lines, the stakes both identify and define the boundary. All OB stakes are deemed to be fixed and may not be moved or removed.

On the left side of hole #1 is an Internal Boundary, for the play of hole #1 only. It is defined by white topped red stakes along the west side of the pond starting by the southwest corner of the pond and continuing to the northwest corner of the pond, and then with white stakes that run to the west between holes #1 and #9. The end of the Internal Boundary is indicated by double white stakes located east of the ditch that fronts the #1 green. The double white stakes turn the boundary south across hole #9 where it runs to infinity.

All stakes for the Internal Boundary are fixed and may not be moved or removed. For play of hole #1 there is no relief, without penalty, from any OB stake. For play of hole #9, OB stakes are Immovable Obstructions and relief, without penalty, is allowed under Rule 16.1, provided that the ball is not located in a Penalty Area where no relief, without penalty, is allowed.

**Ball Crossing Road Defined as Out of Bounds:** A ball which crosses a public road defined as out of bounds and comes to rest beyond the road is out of bounds, even though it may lie on another part of the Course. The tunnel under the roadway between holes #1 and #2 and #8 and #9 is out of bounds.

**Penalty Areas:** Penalty Areas are indicated by red lines and/or stakes. When both stakes and lines are present, the stakes identify the Penalty Area and freshly painted lines define it. When stakes are present without lines, the stakes both identify and define the Penalty Area. When a penalty area is defined on only one side, it extends to infinity. When a Penalty Area adjoins a course out-of-bounds the penalty area extends to and coincides with the out-of-bounds edge of the course.

When a player's ball is in a penalty area, including when it is known or virtually certain to be in a penalty area even though not found, the player may take relief using Rule 17.1d. Any unmarked Penalty Area is deemed to be Red.

**Abnormal Course Conditions:** are defined by freshly painted white lines, where relief is optional. Cultivated flowerbeds and active nurseries are Abnormal Course Conditions, whether or not marked and relief is **mandatory**.

White lined Abnormal Course Conditions, including Ground Under Repair, adjacent to roads or paths are treated as a single condition.

**Bare Areas:** Thinly grassed areas resulting from winterkill or drought conditions are not considered and are not marked as ground under repair.

**Sod Seams:** 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.

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.

**Obstructions:** All artificially surfaced or dirt roads and paths on the course are immovable obstructions from which free relief is allowed under Rule 16.1.

**Trees with Stakes and Wires:** If a player's ball lies anywhere on the course other than in a penalty area and it lies on or touches such a tree or such a tree and/or the stakes or wires interfere with the player's stance or area of intended swing, the player **must** take relief under Rule 16.1f.

**Immovable Obstructions close to the Putting Green:** Relief from interference by an immovable obstruction may be taken under Rule 16.1.

The player also has these extra options to take relief when such immovable obstructions are close to the putting green **and** on the line of play:

The player may take relief under Rule 16.1b if an immovable obstruction is:

On the line of play, **and:**

Within two club-lengths of the putting green, **and:**

Within two club-lengths of the ball, **and:**

The ball is in the General Area.

Exception –There is no relief under this Local Rule if the player chooses a line of play that is clearly unreasonable.

**Wrong Putting Green:** If a player's ball lies on or the player's stance or area of intended swing has interference from any putting green other than that of the hole being played it is on a wrong putting green. Relief, without penalty, is **mandatory** under Rule 13.1f. The practice putting and chipping greens are wrong putting greens.

**Electronic Communication Devices:** The use of cellular phones and other electronic devices can be distracting, and their use is discouraged. Repeated use of a cell phone during a tournament may be a serious breach of etiquette.

**Music:** Reasonable background music is allowed if it does not disrupt or distract other competitors. At any time, players may request that music volume be reduced, or music turned off. Prior to playing background music, the player(s) should confer with all members of the group to determine if the use of music will be a distraction. Disruptive use of music or refusal to silence music when requested may be a serious breach of etiquette. Use of headphones or ear buds is not allowed during competition. (Rule 4.3a(4))

**Playing Two Balls When Uncertain What to Do:** In stroke play events, if a player is uncertain of his rights or the correct procedure during the play of a hole, he may, without penalty, complete the hole with two balls employing Rule 20.1c(3). After the uncertain situation has arisen, **and before making a stroke**, the player should tell his marker or another player which ball he wishes to count if the Rules permit. The player must report the facts of the situation to the Committee before returning his scorecard, even if the score with both balls is the same. If the player fails to do so, they are **disqualified**.

**Practice:** Rule 5.2 is modified in this way: Prior to Thursday skins games, a player may practice on the competition course before the competition.

Otherwise, players must not practice on the competition course prior to any competition scheduled for any weekend day. Practice on the competition course is allowed after the player has completed play for the day. (Rule 5.2)

**Scorecards:** Immediately upon completion of the round, players shall turn in their signed scorecard. A player has left the scoring area when they have physically left the immediate clubhouse area which is defined as leaving the golf course property using any parking lot exit or by returning to the golf course or practice areas after the score card has been returned.

Model Local Rule L-1 regarding missing Player and/or Marker Certification is in effect.

**Close of Competition:** The competition is deemed to have closed when the trophy has been presented to the winner, or, in the absence of a prize ceremony when all scores have been approved by the Committee.

The result of a match is considered to have been "officially announced" when the Committee has approved the result as posted on the public scoreboard.