

Inclement Weather Policy

A. Lightning

Under Rule 5.7a, a player may stop play if he reasonable believes there is a danger from lightning, but must report that stoppage to the Golf Shop. That player must complete the round later that day, when conditions improve, if the round is not cancelled by the **committee**. The penalty for not completing a delayed, but not canceled, round is disqualification.

B. Before Play Begins

If the golf course (GC) is open, we play, except that the "**committee**" may postpone the start of the round or cancel a round before it begins if there is steady or heavy rain, lightning in the area, strong winds, and/or the course is deemed unplayable and those conditions are unlikely to improve in a reasonable period of time. Before the round begins, the **committee** may shorten that day's round to nine holes if there is a high probability that rain, lightning, and/or strong winds are expected and those conditions are expected to continue during the time the round is scheduled to be played.

C. Once Play has Commenced

Once play has commenced, the **committee** may suspend play or cancel the round if there is steady or heavy rain, lightning in the area, strong winds, and/or the course is deemed unplayable.

If the inclement weather or course conditions are believed to be temporary and are expected to improve within an hour, the **committee** should suspend play and resume play after the weather conditions improve. If play has been suspended by the **Committee**, players may mark the position of their ball and lift it without penalty under Rule 5.7d.

If the inclement weather or course conditions are not expected to improve within an hour, or play has been suspended and conditions have not improved after an hour, the **committee** should cancel the round.

If more than half the field chooses not to start the round, the round is canceled.

If GC management closes the golf course after play has commenced, all golfers must mark their positions and leave the course **immediately**. Whether the round is canceled or just delayed until the course reopens will be decided by the **committee**.

If play has been suspended or postponed for any reason, any decision by the **committee** to resume or cancel play will be announced on the patio outside the Golf Shop.

D. Effect of Round Cancellation

If a one day event is canceled, no entry fee will be charged, or it will be refunded. For multi-day tournaments, the event will be shortened and no one will be disqualified for leaving the course before the official cancellation. If lunch or dinner is part of the event, that meal will be served (and charged to the players) even if the entire event is canceled.

E. The Committee

The **committee** for purposes of inclement weather issues consists of the Tournament Chair (TC) the Assistant Tournament Chair (ATC), and/or the Event Coordinator (EC) for that day's event or any SMGA Board members present if the TC, ATC, and EC are not available.