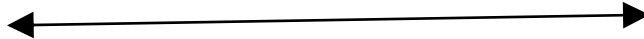


# THE PROFESSIONAL PUTTERS ASSOCIATION

*"The Professional Putters Association has been created with the purpose of finding the world's greatest putter and to promote Putt-Putt Golf Courses of America and its affiliate locations."*

circa 1959 Don Clayton, Founder of Putt-Putt Golf Courses and The Professional Putters Association.



Rainey Statum - Pro  
John Petrie - APA  
2018 National Champions

*Volume  
2019  
Abridged*

*Revised December 31, 2018*

**This Abridged version of the 2019 PPA Rule Book is designed to highlight the Rules and Regulations of The Professional Putters Association and to be used as a handy guide for the most common infractions and questions.**

**Complete and detailed descriptions, requirements and rulings are found in the full unabridged version of the 2019 PPA Rule book found online at [www.proputters.org](http://www.proputters.org)**

## **O**RGANIZATION

The Professional Putters Association (PPA®) is organized and governed by Joe Aboid licensed by Putt-Putt Golf Courses of America, Inc. (and will hereinafter be referred to collectively as “PPA”). The PPA appoints the PPA Executive Director, PPA Commissioner and its selected committee members, if any. The PPA has the final say on any appeals that may be made where appeal rights are specified. Any presentation dealing with appeals is made through the PPA Commissioner, whose decision is final.

## **M**EMBERSHIP

Membership in The Professional Putters Association (PPA) is extended to select individuals, male and female, on the basis of their desire to participate in PPA tournaments and to abide by all PPA rules, policies, and procedures. Two membership categories are available in the PPA: Professional (Pro) Division and APA Division. Pro Division memberships are open to any person 18 years of age or older. Complete and detailed descriptions and requirements may be found in the full version of the 2019 PPA Rule book.

## **P**ERSONAL CONDUCT

Success of our game relies on the integrity of the players to abide by the Rulebook of Professional Putters Association. To have consideration of other players, demonstrate sportsmanship, courtesy and etiquette. This is the spirit of the game of golf. As PPA member tournament contestants, we are invited guests of the host facility owner. This owner is an independent business person who has invited PPA members to use the facility as a tournament site. As guests, members are expected to act in a professional manner and abide by any and all local rules and regulations enforced by the facility owner or management. All players are mandated by these rules to extend full courtesies to the owner, manager, and staff.



# T TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES

## 1. Registration and Entry Fees

Upon arrival at a tournament site, each member will pay the required entry fees by cash, traveler's checks, money orders or credit card\* if available. No personal checks will be accepted for tournament entry fees. Players are required to verify all fees paid at the time of registration. The paid receipt will determine any disputes without appeal. At all national tournaments, entry fees must be paid prior to 3pm the day before the scheduled tournament.

All participants must have a current and valid membership at the time entry fees are paid. If participant is not a current member, the participant must reapply for membership into the PPA/APA to be eligible to play in tournament competition.

## 2. Practice Times and Greens Fees

Greens fee privileges and rates are set at the discretion of the local facility owner. Unless otherwise stated by the facility ownership, greens fees to cover practice times for a tournament are \$10 per day per player and will be charged for practice all days prior to all tournaments. At National tournament events no greens fees are required the day prior to the start of the tournament once tournament entry fees are paid.

## 3. Proper Playing Attire

Members of the Professional Putters Association represent all players, facility owners, and sponsors during tournament activity. Members are expected to dress in an overall professional manner. The final decision as to what constitutes professional manner is determined by the Tournament Director or other Tournament Officials without appeal.

## 4. Practice Rules

The Tournament Director will limit the number of practice balls allowed. All players are limited to one (1) practice ball one (1) hour prior to the scheduled starting time of a tournament. No player may use more than two (2) practice balls at any one time. Proper attire shall be in effect during all practice times.

## 5. Official Ball

All golf balls used in a PPA sanctioned tournament must be approved by the Tournament Director. Golf balls that will be approved are those that are listed at the website of the USGA (linked from [ProPutters.org](http://ProPutters.org)). Golf balls required by any sponsors of the tournament event must be used and purchased by all members. The legality of a ball will be left to the discretion of the Tournament Director without appeal.

## 6. Starting Times

Starting times for Regional and National Tournaments are established by memoranda and/or posting on [www.proputters.org](http://www.proputters.org). Starting times will not be changed without prior approval of the Tournament Director. If a change of starting times is required, the new starting times will be posted on [proputters.org](http://proputters.org) or [facebook.com/TheProfessionalPuttersAssociation](https://facebook.com/TheProfessionalPuttersAssociation) prior to midnight the eve of the next day's tournament.

## 7. Tournament Pairings

Pairings for all tournaments will be made at the direction of the Tournament Director or appointed representatives and will be posted prior to the starting time.

# P LAYING RULES

## 1. BEGIN PLAY

To BEGIN PLAY on each hole, the ball shall be placed on and stroked from the tee mat.

## 2. HONORS

The HONOR of putting first on the first hole shall go to the player listed first in each of the pairings. Each player will, in turn, putt out each hole before the next player begins play on the hole. The player who wins the previous hole shall putt first on the succeeding hole. Honors will carry over to succeeding rounds in which the same players compete together.

## 3. CONTINUOUS PLAY

**MEDAL PLAY.** All putts shall be puttied out. No player may concede a putt. Each player shall continue to putt until the ball comes to rest at the bottom of the cup.

**MATCH PLAY.** A player may concede a putt at any time. No player may pick up his ball from the playing surface without a verbal concession from his opponent.

## 4. INADVERTENT PICK-UP

No player shall inadvertently pick up his ball while it is in play on the playing surface.

## 5. PUTTING A MOVING BALL

**5.1.** A player shall hit his ball only one (1) time during the motion of putting.

**5.2.** No player shall putt a moving ball.

## 6. INTERFERENCE

A ball in motion or at rest (stopped) on the playing surface shall not be interfered with by anyone at anytime. Interference can be made by a spectator, Tournament Marshall, opponent or any outside agent. Elements of nature and debris are to be excluded.

## 7. ALTERING THE LIE OF A BALL

No player will alter the position, or cause to move, a ball on the playing surface except as provided for under other rules. After a ball has come to rest on the playing surface for a period of fifteen (15) seconds, if wind or other elements of nature cause the ball to move, it will be returned to the original position with no penalty.

## 8. MARKING BALL FOR CLEANING

A ball lying at rest on the playing surface may be marked and lifted for cleaning. Marking is done by placing a small coin next or against the back edge of the ball on the playing surface in line with the cup. After cleaning, the ball is returned to the exact same position without a penalty.

## 9. BALL OVERHANGING CUP

No player shall alter the position or cause to move a ball on the playing surface overhanging the cup except as provided for under other rules.

## 10. DELAY IN PLAY

During a round, no player/group shall deliberately delay, slow down or cause a delay for any other player/group. All players/groups are directed to play every hole that is open in front of them. If during play, pace is lost with the group ahead, the group or player responsible for the delay may receive a warning. Losing pace is generally defined as falling two or more holes behind the group ahead.

Once a group finishes the previous hole, the next player then has 20 seconds to address and tee off. If a player is distracted, he may step away and start over with his initial address, but only within the

allotted time. All players must play continuously until they have caught up with the group directly in front of them leaving no open holes between theirs and the next group. The Tournament Director has full authority to assess the penalties as stated below to the player/group for repeated violations of the rule without appeal.

**Ruling:** If a player/group is observed or reported to delay or cause a delay in play, the Tournament Director shall:

- a) warn any player/group one (1) time; and
- b) if the same player/group is in violation of this rule a second (2nd) time, the Tournament Director shall assess that player/group a two (2) stroke penalty; and if the same player/group is in violation for a third (3rd) time, the Tournament Director will disqualify the player/group.
- c) **During a tournament event, if a player leaves the golf course for any reason, including going out to their car between rounds and that player is called to the tee for not being ready to tee off, the remaining players in the group will immediately continue play and a two stroke penalty will be assessed per hole to the missing player for each hole missed up to two holes. If the player has not returned at the conclusion of two holes, that player will be immediately disqualified.**

#### **11. OUTSIDE ADVICE**

No player shall give or receive aid or advice from another player.

#### **12. DISCONTINUING PARTICIPATION**

Any player entered in a tournament may not withdraw or discontinue participation prior to the completion of the event without approval of the Tournament Director.

#### **13. SCORING**

Each player shall keep score for all players in his group.

At the conclusion of the round, all scorecards must be completed in their entirety, including: total number of strokes for the first nine (9) holes, total number of strokes for the second nine (9) holes, grand total, total number of strokes taken for the tournament for each player in the group, division played, round number, course number and signatures of players completing the scorecard.

A member of the group will staple all of the group's scorecards together and turn them into the official scorer for posting. All scorecards turned in to the official scorekeeper must be recognizable. This will include the signature of the player completing the card and the signature of the player attesting the score.

##### **13.1a. DISABILITY EXCEPTION**

Any player, who has a handicap that would prevent them from keeping score, will verbally acknowledge the scores turned in to the official scorer are accurate.

#### **14. PLAYING RULE VIOLATIONS**

A player who violates a playing rule shall assess himself the number of penalty stroke(s) prescribed for the particular rule he violated. Any player who observes a player rule violation shall bring the violation to the attention of the player who violated the rule; this player will assess himself the penalty stroke(s) prescribed.

#### **15. FALSIFICATION OF SCORING**

No player shall intentionally falsify a score or create a situation which could result in a question of the validity of a score. It is the player's responsibility to verify that scores posted on the official pairing sheets are accurate.

## **16. TIES AND PLAYOFF**

**16.1. MEDAL PLAY.** If two (2) or more players are tied for first place at the completion of tournament play, an additional round of eighteen (18) holes shall be played to determine the tournament winner. Exceptions to this rule are possible if the Tournament Director has announced in advance of the last round that another method shall end ties.

**16.2. MATCH PLAY.** If a match play pairing ends in a tie after the end of a scheduled eighteen (18) or thirty-six (36) hole match, the winner shall be determined by a sudden death playoff. The winning score shall be determined by the number of holes played.

## **17. GENERAL AND WET PLAYING CONDITIONS**

**17.1.** When a group prepares to play a hole that has a loose ring or loose obstacle, the first player shall check the position of the obstacle. If the obstacle requires adjustment, the player shall have the Tournament Director make the adjustment. Certain wet playing conditions may require special rulings by the Tournament Director.

**17.2.** No player shall wipe water from the bumpboard or obstacle, nor mark the carpet with his putter or any other instrument in an attempt to remove water from same. However, when there is water on a tee-mat, it may be cleared.

**17.3** No player shall use his putter or feet to remove moisture or standing water in such a way as to create a path or line to the cup.

## **18. ALTERING PLAYING SURFACE**

After tournament play begins, no change to the permanent playing surface may be made by any member of the group without permission of the Tournament Director.

## **19. THE INTENT OF A STROKE**

Any player that attempts to move a ball with a putter will consider that attempt a stroke. If a stroke with intent is made and no contact is made with the ball, the intent will be counted as a stroke.

## **20. LINE OF PUTT**

The line of putt must not be touched except:

the player may remove loose impediments, provided he does not press anything down;

the player may place the club in front of the ball when addressing it, provided he does not press anything down;

in measuring relief from an obstacle or bumpboard

in lifting or replacing the ball;

Line of Putt: The "line of putt" is the line that the player wishes his ball to take after a stroke. The line of putt includes a reasonable distance on either side of the intended line. The line of putt does not extend beyond the hole.

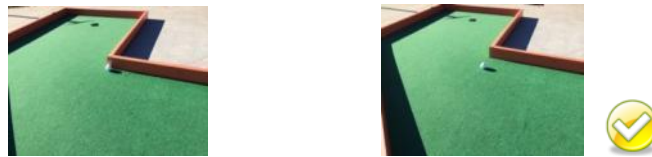
# RULE INTERPRETATIONS

## 1. A BALL COMES TO REST AGAINST A BUMBOARD



**Ruling:** The ball may be moved/spaced perpendicular from the bumpboard any distance up to the prescribed distance. This movement is allowed unless the result allows a ball to clear an obstacle.

- A. *Explanation:* The ball may be moved within the prescribed distance wherever relief is available providing such movement does not improve the next putt by clearing an obstacle. If the next putt does offer the player a clear shot to the cup, then the ball must be moved from the bumpboard in such a fashion that there is no improvement in the line to the hole.
- B. *Explanation:* A bumpboard is not an obstacle. If relief from a bumpboard provides relief to the cup, that movement is permitted.



*Explanation:* Any questions or disagreements concerning ball movement will be resolved by the Tournament Director who will rule consistently throughout the event.

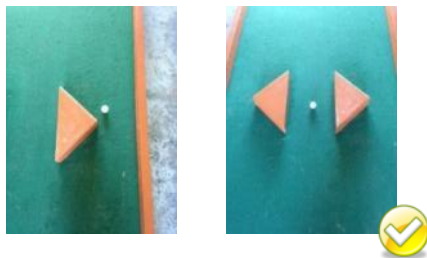
## 2. A BALL COMES TO REST AGAINST AN OBSTACLE



**Ruling:** The ball may be moved within the prescribed distance wherever relief is available providing such movement does not improve the next putt by clearing the obstacle. If the next putt does offer the player a clear shot to the cup, then the ball must be moved from the obstacle in such a fashion that there is no improvement in the line to the cup.



**Ruling:** The ball may not be advanced towards the cup when relief from an obstacle is needed. If the next putt does offer the player a clear shot to the cup, then the ball must be moved from the obstacle in such a fashion that there is no advancement toward the cup



**Ruling:** There may be times when relief from a cleared obstacle still may not provide relief to allow for entire spacing. In that case, the placement of the golf ball may be mirrored to allow such relief.

*Explanation:* Any questions or disagreements concerning ball movement will be resolved by the Tournament Director who will rule consistently throughout the event.

**LOCAL RULINGS:** In certain situations, it may become necessary to allow double space relief off a bumpboard or obstacle. When that occurs, the Tournament Director will make that announcement at the rules briefing BEFORE the tournament begins. Such situations would be:

- a. When the putting area is elevated and a proper stance outside the putting area is not possible.
- b. The player is unable to take a stance and make a stroke due to the design of the hole, IE. this would be for a saddle hole or other type construction of a hole that places a barrier that is parallel with the rails and whose height is above that of a rail.
- c. An outside structure or landscape overhanging the concrete perimeter of the hole. This can be man-made, as with stone work, theming or bushes or trees that hang over the area.
- d. If a player still cannot take a reasonable stance or the spacing of two spaces obstructs the line to the hole which before spacing was clear, then the ball may be placed by mirroring the ball to the next closest point of relief no closer to the hole.

### 3. BALL SPACING ERRORS

**Ruling:** If a ball is spaced incorrectly and played, the ball is returned to the correct spacing, counting all previous strokes and adding a one-stroke penalty. This penalty may only be assessed prior to any member of the group beginning the next hole.

### 4. A BALL COMES TO REST OUT OF BOUNDS

**Ruling:** The ball is out of bounds and shall be placed in bounds on the playing surface at the point it left the playing surface. There is a one (1) stroke penalty to move the ball in bounds. Should a ball go out of bounds and return to the playing surface by its own momentum, it is played as is with no penalty. Exceptions to this rule include when the ball goes out of bounds at the open end of the hole. In this case the next shot must be from the tee mat, without penalty. Also, in the event the ball goes out of bounds having jumped an American's with Disability Act (ADA) bumpboard requirement, the ball will be placed back on the playing surface where it went out of bounds, without penalty.

### 5. ALL TEE MATS ARE PLAYED AS IS WITH NO ARTIFICIAL AIDS USED TO CAUSE THE BALL TO HOLD A POSITION

**Ruling:** Any player violating this rule shall replay the hole counting all previous strokes.



## **6. THE TEE MAT IS PART OF THE PLAYING SURFACE**

### **7. TABLE RULINGS**

#### **7.1 A Ball Comes to Rest Under a Table**

**Ruling:** The ball may be moved back towards the tee mat in line with the original position of the ball one (1) club length (including head, shaft and grip) from the front edge of the table. There is no penalty assessed.

#### **7.2 A Ball Comes to Rest on the Table Ledge**

**Ruling:** If a player's ball comes to rest on the table ledge, the ball can be played as it lies or placed in the fairway carpet runway one club length from the table edge and played with no penalty.

## **8. BALL COMES TO REST WITHIN A WATER HAZARD**

**Ruling:** The ball is lifted and placed within the prescribed distance at the point it entered the water hazard away from the cup. A one (1) stroke penalty is assessed.

## **9. BALL INADVERTENTLY KNOCKED OFF THE TEE MAT**

**Ruling:** Any ball moving more than twelve (12) inches onto the carpeted surface is played as is, counting all previous strokes. The only exception to this rule is on certain holes that by design are down hill off the tee mat. In such cases, the Tournament Director shall decide if the ball would have rolled more than the twelve (12) inches if the hole were flat. If the Tournament Director determines the ball would have rolled more than the twelve (12) inches if the hole were flat, then the ball will be played where it came to rest.

## **10. A BALL ROLLS OUT THE OPEN END OF THE HOLE**

**Ruling:** When the ball comes to rest off the playing surface, either on its own or having been stopped by a player, play will then resume from the tee mat, counting all previous strokes.

## **11. IF A TEE MAT BECOMES LOOSE DURING TOURNAMENT COMPETITION**

**Ruling:** The Tournament Director shall return the tee mat to its original position and mark a line around it to show its intended position.

***SINCE ALL RULES AND EXPLANATIONS UNDER SECTION VIII - RULE INTERPRETATIONS - ARE TO BE ENFORCED AT THE TOURNAMENT SITE AND CANNOT BE CHANGED LATER, THERE IS NO APPEAL TO THESE RULES AS RULED UPON BY THE ON-SITE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR.***

# **G**ENERAL RULES

## **1. AMATEUR STATUS AND PARTICIPATION**

Amateurs may compete in tournament competition at various designated PPA tournaments. Amateurs may not win prize money, but may receive announced expense reimbursement which may not exceed the entry fee paid.

## **2. NON AFFILIATED TOURNAMENTS**

2.1 Members of the PPA may not participate in any non-affiliated tournament on a date when that non-affiliated event is held on the same date as any PPA National Tournament.

2.2 Members who compete in non affiliated tournaments must do so at their same or equivalent level of membership.

**Ruling:** Any player found crossing divisions of play will have their PPA membership revoked.

**3. DEFENDING CHAMPIONS**

A member of the PPA who wins and accepts first place prize money automatically agrees to participate in the next PPA event scheduled at that facility. A member of the PPA who wins and accepts first place prize money in the National Championship automatically agrees to participate in the next PPA National Championship. The only exception to the rule shall be in the case of health, accident or written permission of the PPA. Request for exception must be made in writing.

**4. INCLEMENT WEATHER CONDITIONS**

The Tournament Director shall have full authority to delay the start of a tournament and/or stop play during tournament progress when weather conditions would endanger the safety of the players (i.e., heat, lightning, hail, tornado, etc.) or the playing surface becomes saturated with water and is declared unplayable. Play shall continue by all players until a delay or stop in play is authorized.

**5. TOURNAMENT DELAYS**

Tournament delays can occur for various reasons to include weather and the safety of players, officials, and spectators. If the tournament is delayed for any reason, refer to the unabridged version of the PPA 2019 Rule and Regulations book for rulings.

**6. TOURNAMENT POSTPONEMENT**

If a tournament is postponed until a later time during the same day, play shall resume on the hole where each player was playing when play was stopped. All scores on completed holes shall be counted.

**7. ENDORSEMENTS**

When a member of the Professional Putters Association acts as an official member of the PPA, he/she may not advocate and/or endorse any product, service, project, putting tournament program and/or miniature golf course without written permission of the PPA.

**8. FINES**

The Tournament Director, members of the Advisory Committee and PPA officials shall have the authority to fine members of the PPA a maximum of \$500 for each violation of the PPA rules or any other breach of sportsmanship that would reflect upon the membership, character and good name of the Professional Putters Association.

**9. GRIEVANCES**

Any member who feels he has just cause for grievance may submit such grievance in writing to the PPA and request a redress. The PPA Executive Director shall have the authority to reject the request or recommend specific redress to the PPA, whose decision shall be final.

**10. PERSONAL ARRANGEMENTS**

At all tournaments, each member is responsible for his own arrangements, accommodations, food and transportation.

**11. PHOTOGRAPHS/VIDEO TAPE/FILM**

Members shall make themselves available to the PPA for the purpose of obtaining a digital image of the player prior to their participating in a National Tournament Event. The photographs will be used for new releases and publicity of the PPA. All Members agree that the PPA may use any and all still photographs, videotape or film of the member without compensation to the member.

**12. CHANGING MEMBERSHIP STATUS**

Players who request membership in the PPA agree to maintain their membership status until the end of the current calendar year. Membership status ends each December 31<sup>st</sup>. Each January players may renew with a new or different status. Any Pro player, who wishes to change membership status during the year to Amateur status, must submit this request in writing to the PPA. APA players who wish to

upgrade during the year, must submit a new application. Requests to change memberships must be requested prior to tournament participation. Also the player agrees to maintain the new membership status until December 31<sup>st</sup> of the next calendar year. Amateur's who accept prize money, regardless of play in a sanctioned or non-sanctioned event, are then considered Pros and must upgrade to a Pro membership status, paying all appropriate upgrade fees or they will have all membership benefits and privileges immediately revoked.

### **13. APPEAL**

In the event a player has been ruled disqualified, penalized or fined, they have the right to appeal. Such appeal must be made in writing to the PPA Commissioner within 15 days from the date of ruling. The appeal may include written statements from witnesses on behalf of the accused player. The ruling of the PPA Commissioner shall be final.

### **14. RULE INTERPRETATIONS**

Every attempt has been made to cover all aspects of a putting tournament and PPA sanctioned event. In the event a situation occurs not specifically spelled out in the unabridged Rule Book, the National Tournament Director or Tournament director on site will have full authority to apply the intent of the closest ruling to that situation.

**NOTE: APA and amateur terminology used throughout this rulebook are used interchangeably and are referring to non-professional players.**