NHWGA Severe Weather Policy for Regular Tuesday Tournaments


Competitions - Before the Competition 5A(8)

The terms of the Competition set out the structure of the competition and once a competition has started the terms may be altered only in very exceptional circumstances.

An example of a situation where the Terms of the Competition should not be altered:

Since players begin a round with the expectation that a certain number of holes will be played and may base their play on that, the number of holes to be played in a round should not be changed once that round has started. For example, if bad weather results in play being suspended after all the players have completed 9 holes of an 18-hole round, the Committee should not announce the results based on only 9 holes.

An example of a situation where there are exceptional circumstances and the Terms of the Competition may be altered:

If circumstances such as bad weather affect the number of rounds that can be played in the time available, the number of rounds to be played, or number of holes in any rounds not yet started, may be altered to accommodate the circumstances. Similarly, if those circumstances mean the planned format cannot be accommodated in the time available, the format of the competition may be changed.

The course always has the right to cancel play if the course feels that it is unsafe or detrimental to the course to continue play.”

“A round should be cancelled only in a case where it would be very unfair not to cancel it. For example, a small number of players begin a round under extremely bad weather conditions, conditions subsequently worsen and further play that day is impossible, but when play will resume the next day the weather is ideal.” -- USGA Official Guide to Rule of Golf – Competitions – 6E(4).

In the spirit of the game, and for both safety and the enjoyment of the game, NHWGA reserves the right for both the course pro or its representative and a Board member to collaborate and decide if it is in the best interest of both the players and the course to suspend or cancel play.

Revised January 2020
If a tournament is cancelled before it starts, so be it.

If a tournament is cancelled before all players are finished their round:

1. A player is not entitled to any refund.

2. It is up to the host club to refund any portion of a cart fee.

3. A player will receive a participation point, if applicable.

4. Competition credits will be distributed based on 75% of the field finishing 18 holes or if a 9-hole tournament 75% finishing 9 holes.

A 9-hole tournament must be declared prior to the start of the first tee time, otherwise it is an 18-hole tournament.

For shotgun tournaments, two separate 9-hole tournaments will be played. Participants starting on the front 9 will continue play on the front 9 and those starting on the back 9 will continue play on the back 9 unless dictated differently by course layout.

Discontinuance of Play

“a. When permitted the player must not discontinue play unless:

I. Suspension by Committee;

II. Stopping Play by Agreement in Match Play. Players in a Match may agree to stop play for any reason except if doing so delays the competition if they agree to stop and then one player wants to resume play, the agreement has ended, and the other player must resume play.

III. Individual Player Stopping Play Because of Lightning; A player may stop play if she reasonably believes there is danger from lightning but must report to the Committee as soon as possible.

Bad weather is not of itself a good reason for discontinuing play.” -- USGA Rule 5-7 Stopping Play; Resumption of Play

If the player(s) stops play for any reason not allowed under this Rule or fails to report to the Committee when required to do so, the player is Disqualified. They must turn in their card even if it is a “No Card”.

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Resumption of Play When play is to be resumed following a suspension, players will resume play from where the stopped (see Rule 5.7d).

Should a player find herself to be the only one in her group that wants to return to the course, she must proceed as follows:

1. Get the original scorecard. Put X’s on the holes that were not completed.
2. Have all the members of the original group sign the scorecard, which will stay with the scorer.
3. Get a blank scorecard to record scores for resumption of play and notify the scorer or a committee member of her intentions to continue play.

The player then has one of the following options:

1. Find a group of three, or less, to join, or
2. Have a marker accompany her out on the course.
3. Ask the course if they will allow her to join a group so that she can continue play.

When the player finishes her round, she must:

1. Have her card signed and attested for those holes she completed after the delay.
2. Attach both attested cards at the scorer’s table.