

77th U.S. GIRLS' JUNIOR QUALIFYING
ELKS COUNTRY CLUB, COLUMBUS, NEBR.
MONDAY, JUNE 22, 2026

NOTICE TO PLAYERS – DRAFT VERSION (3/20/26)

(This information supplements the Championship Entry & The Local Rules and Terms of the Competition for 2026 USGA Championships)

1. **Distance Measuring Devices:** The use of distance-measuring devices (DMD) to measure distance only (Rule 4.3) is permitted in all USGA qualifying rounds.
2. **Grooves and Punch Mark Specifications:** The players' clubs must conform to the grooves and punch mark specifications in The Rules of Golf that are effective from January 1, 2010 (see Model Local Rule G-3).
3. **Footwear:** Rule 4.3 is modified in this way: During a round, a player must not wear shoes with traditionally-designed spikes (regardless of composition, i.e. ceramic, plastic, etc.) or spikes, of any design, comprised either entirely or partially of metal (if such metal will come in contact with the course). Penalty for breach of this Local Rule: See Rule 4.3.
4. **Play-Off:** In the event of a tie for the last qualifiers or alternates places, there will be a hole-by-hole playoff to determine the final qualifiers, and the 1st and 2nd alternate if necessary.
5. **Teeing Ground:** The White USGA Tee-Markers define the teeing ground for the competition.
6. **Scoring Area:** A score card is returned when it has been given to the scoring official and the player has left the immediate scoring tent area.
7. **Out of Bounds:**
 - a. Out of Bounds is defined by white lines in addition to white stakes, white paint dots and fence posts. When defined by white lines, the line itself is out of bounds.
 - b. Hole 4 - Out of Bounds is defined by white stakes, white fence and pool fence behind the putting green.
8. **Ground Under Repair:**
 - a. Decorative Flower and Plant Beds. When enclosed by cart paths or adjacent to immovable obstructions they are treated as a single abnormal course condition.
 - b. The Maintenance Area between holes 7, 12 & 13, defined by a white line.
9. **Immovable Obstructions:**
 - a. Include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Young Trees identified by white tubing (including attachments and their mulch bases).
 - ii. Artificially Surfaced Roads and Paths including those surfaced with crushed brick, gravel or asphalt.
 - b. Immovable Obstructions Adjacent to Each Other are to be treated as a single immovable obstruction.
10. **Movable Obstructions** include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Yardage posts.
 - b. Arboretum signs.
 - c. Tee signs.
11. **Integral Objects:**
 - a. Rock bed bordering the entrance road (free relief not permitted). However, individual stones associated with the rock bed are considered loose impediments.
12. **Penalty Areas:**
 - a. Dropping Zones: If a ball is in or it is known or virtually certain that a ball that has not been found came to rest in one of the defined penalty areas below the player may proceed (i) under Rule 17.1 or (ii) as an extra option, drop a ball, under penalty of one stroke in the prescribed dropping zone. The dropping zone is a relief area under Rule 14.3.
 - i. Hole 16 – Red Penalty Area Behind the Putting Green – dropping zone located in the rough behind the putting green.
13. **Temporary Immovable Obstructions:** Relief on Either Side. Model Local Rule F-23 is in effect and includes starting and scoring tents. If a player has either physical interference or line of sight interference from any TIO and is entitled to relief, as an additional option, they may take relief on the other side of the TIO along the arc without penalty. When taking relief on the other side of the TIO, the player may only take relief under the TIO Local Rule, not Rule 16.1.
14. **Final Decisions on Any Disputed Points:** Made by Craig Ames, Juliana Botero and Bob Planansky.