

45th U.S. MID-AMATEUR QUALIFYING
LOCHLAND COUNTRY CLUB, HASTINGS, NEBR.
AUGUST 3, 2026

NOTICE TO PLAYERS – DRAFT VERSION (4/22/26)

(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. All announcements regarding the play-off will be made upon completion of the qualifying round.
5. **Teeing Ground:** The Blue 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. In addition to white stakes and perimeter fence posts, out of bounds is defined by white lines and dots. When defined by white lines, the line itself is out of bounds. When both white stakes and white lines exist, the stakes identify Out of Bounds and are boundary objects (no relief) and the line defines out of bounds.
 - b. Hole #4 - White stakes along the left side are out of bounds during play of hole #4 only.
 - c. Hole #6 - Out of bounds is defined by white stakes behind the green. A ball coming to rest beyond the white stakes is out of bounds, even if it comes to rest on another part of the course that is in bounds for other holes.
 - d. Hole #7 - Out of bounds is defined by the wood posts along the left side, in addition to white stakes.
 - e. Holes #10 & #13 - The driving range on the right side, defined by white stakes, is out of bounds.
 - f. Hole #18 - White stakes along the right side are out of bounds during play of hole #18 only.
8. **Ground Under Repair** includes, but is not limited to, decorative flower beds. When enclosed by cart paths or adjacent to immovable obstructions they are considered a single abnormal course condition.
9. **Immovable Obstructions:**
 - a. Include but are not limited to:
 - i. Artificially surfaced roads and paths, including any adjacent curbing.
 - ii. Permanent restrooms and pump house.
 - iii. Young trees identified by white tubing and/or stakes.
 - b. Immovable obstructions adjacent to, within or abutting each other, such as artificially surfaced paths (including decorative areas enclosed by these paths), curbing, walls, steps and drains, are considered a single immovable obstruction.
 - c. White Stakes used to define out of bounds along the left of hole #4 and the right of hole #18 are deemed to be immovable obstructions during play of any other hole.
10. **Immovable Obstructions Close to Putting Greens:** Model Local Rule F-5 is in effect. Relief is only available when both the obstruction and the ball lie in a part of the general area cut to fairway height or less.
11. **Loose Impediments:** Wood chips, pine straw and mulch are loose impediments.
12. **Penalty Areas:**
 - a. Dropping Zones: If a ball is in the following penalty areas, including when it is known or virtually certain that a ball that has not been found came to rest in the penalty area, the player has these relief options, each for one penalty stroke: 1) Take relief under Rule 17.1; or 2) As an extra option, drop the original ball or another ball in the dropping zone marked "DZ" in the location below. The dropping zone is a relief area under Rule 14.3.
 - i. Hole #3 Red Penalty Area – Drop Zone located on a forward tee.
 - ii. Hole #8 Red Penalty Area - Drop Zone located on a forward tee.
 - iii. Hole #18 Red Penalty Area - Drop Zone located on a forward tee.
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, Justin Ahrens & Juliana Botero.