

12th U.S. AMATEUR FOUR-BALL QUALIFYING
THE CLUB AT INDIAN CREEK, ELKHORN, NEBR. (RED FEATHER/BLACK BIRD)
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2026

NOTICE TO PLAYERS – DRAFT VERSION (04/29/26)

(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 alternates if necessary. All announcements regarding the play-off will be made upon completion of the qualifying round.
5. **Teeing Area:** The White USGA Tee-Markers define the teeing area for the competition.
6. **Returning Scorecard:** For the purpose of applying Rule 3.3b(2), a side's scorecard is treated as returned 15 minutes after the scorecard has been accepted by the Committee and the side has left the scoring area. The scoring area is defined by the area under the tent. Exception: A side's scorecard is returned if either of the following two events occur, even if it occurs before the 15-minute time limit has expired:
 - a. Any side has made a stroke to begin a play-off.
 - b. The competition has closed.
7. **Abnormal Course Conditions** include, but are not limited to, decorative flower beds (including all rock beds).
8. **Out of Bounds:**
 - a. Defined by perimeter fence posts in addition to white stakes, white paint dots and white lines.
 - b. Holes 2, 3 & 4 – out of bounds defined by the white line along the right.
9. **Immovable Obstructions:**
 - a. Include but are not limited to:
 - i. Artificially surfaced roads and paths including those surfaced with crushed rock, gravel or asphalt.
 - ii. Decorative rocks.
 - 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 obstruction.
 - c. Permanent restrooms and structures, including adjacent and surrounding artificially surfaced paths, patios, and decorative plantings, are considered a single obstruction.
 - d. Young trees identified by an orange stake are deemed to be an immovable obstruction.
 - e. Immovable Obstructions Close to the Putting Green: Model Local Rule F-5 is in effect as detailed below. **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.**
 - i. The player has the option to take relief when such immovable obstructions are close to the putting green and on the line of play. The player may take relief under Rule 16.1b if an immovable obstruction is on the line of play and is within two club-lengths of the putting green, and within two club-lengths of the ball.
Exception - There is no relief under this Local Rule if the player chooses a line of play that is clearly unreasonable.
10. **Penalty Area Dropping Zones:** If a ball is in the following penalty area, 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:
 - a. proceed under Rule 17.1; or
 - b. as an additional 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
 1. Hole #17 (Black 8) Yellow Penalty Area - DZ located on the forward tee.
11. **Temporary Immovable Obstructions:** Relief on Either Side. Model Local Rule F-23 is in effect. If a player has either physical interference or line of sight interference from any TIO and is entitled to relief, as an additional option, he 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.
12. **Final Decisions on Any Disputed Points:** Made by Craig Ames, Justin Ahrens and Juliana Botero.