

# AustinSkins Rules of Play

All play during AustinSkins tournaments will be governed by the [USGA Rules of Golf](#), unless otherwise noted below.

1. **Time of Starting, Arriving Late To Your Tee Time.** This rule supersedes USGA Rule 6-3. It is acceptable if a player is running late and contacts a director, or organizes among other players, and arranges to switch tee times with another player so that he will not be late. There is no penalty for switching tee times with another player.

Regardless of whether or not a player has switched tee times with another player, if he does not play the first hole or multiple holes, that player has the following options:

- a. The player can choose not to play the holes missed and is then ineligible for winning prize money in the low net games associated with any of the holes missed.
  - b. The player can choose to replay the missed holes, under penalty of two strokes per hole, after the completion of the regular round, provided he takes two witnesses, and is able to complete the holes no later than 30 minutes after the last regular round has completed play.
2. **Scoring.** Please refer to our [Scoring Rules Document](#) for a full explanation of our scoring rules. Simply stated. EACH PLAYER IS FULLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING THE ACCURACY OF THEIR HOLE BY HOLE SCORES IN **\*\*BOTH\*\*** THE ONLINE SCORING SYSTEM AND THE PAPER SCORECARD. NO EXCEPTIONS. Failure to follow the scoring rules, or any scoring error will result in penalties up to and including DISQUALIFICATION.
  3. **No Rock Rule** - Unless otherwise noted in this document, we play by the full USGA Rules of Golf. If your ball is on a rock, you have two options:
    - a. Play the ball as it lies and hit it off the rock(s). You may remove loose impediments, per Rule 23-1.
    - b. Take an unplayable lie and a one stroke penalty, per Rule 28.
  4. **No Gimmies** - Hole all putts. Failure to hole all putts results in disqualification from all relevant low wagers/games and from skins for all holes in which the gimmie was taken.
  5. **Unmarked Hazards And Out Of Bounds** - The USGA rules of Golf are dependent on a course being marked properly. The rules further state that the rules committee is responsible for marking the course (USGA Rule 33-2). We do not have a rules committee or the resources to mark every course that we play. In light of this fact, we will attempt to address potential issues with unmarked areas as follows:

- a. **Out of Bounds** - if not otherwise indicated as a local rule, roads are considered out of bounds, whether marked or not, unless otherwise covered by a local rule. (ie: left of number 9 at Teravista). Similarly, fences that create a boundary between the golf course and private property are considered out of bounds, whether marked or not, unless otherwise covered by a local rule. If there is any question, the player should confer with the other players in his group and should proceed by the consensus of the group. The group should notify the tournament directors of the occurrence.
  - b. **Water Hazards** - if a water hazard is not marked with red or yellow stakes, proceed under USGA Decision 26/2, which states that a player may not benefit from an improperly marked hazard, and if the ball comes to rest in what is “clearly” a hazard, it should be played as such. If there is any question, the player should confer with the other players in his group and should proceed by the consensus of the group. The group should notify the tournament directors of the occurrence.
  - c. **Unmarked Natural Areas** - Many golf courses have a local rule that states to play unmarked natural areas as a hazard. Always check the scorecard for this provision. Occasionally, the pairings email will indicate that we are playing with this provision.
6. **Rules Infractions** - If you witness what you think is a rules infraction, under these rules and/or the USGA Rules of Golf, you must **IMMEDIATELY** address the issue with the player in question and bring it to the attention of the other players in your group. This is done so that everything is as fresh in everyone’s mind as possible so that the issue can be resolved with honor and respect. The following procedure must also be followed:
- a. **Presumption of innocence.** A player is “innocent until proven guilty”. Golf is a game of honor, and we should treat each other with honor and respect. A player is entitled to the benefit of the doubt.. Thus, do not accuse a player of intentionally violating the rules. Approach the player as if you know he wants to follow the rules and is unaware of the infraction and would be grateful for your observation since he was unaware of it.
  - b. **Uncertainty.** If there is a question about the possible infraction and/or the potential penalty, play two balls and mark the score for each. After your round, confirm the proper course of action with the tournament directors.
7. **Music** - Listening to music over speakers (not headphones) **is allowed** in AustinSkins events. [USGA Rules of Golf Rule 14-3](#) has been interpreted by the USGA to mean that no player may listen to any music of any kind over any kind of device during a golf swing. AustinSkins has adopted this local rule to allow music played over a speaker that is not a headphone or earphone. Players may **not** listen to music or other sound over headphones or earphones. Also, if any player in the group asks that the volume be turned down or that the music be turned off, the player controlling the music is **REQUIRED** to comply with the request.
8. **Distance Measuring Devices** - AustinSkins has adopted a local rule permitting the use of Distance Measuring Devices as long as they do not provide slope information, as noted in [USGA Rule 14-3](#), which states that the tournament committee may adopt a local rule permitting such

devices.

9. **Playing the Wrong Tees** - Players should play the tees assigned, but because AustinSkins has one flight with players playing multiple tees at once, and tee assignment could vary depending on what games a player enters, we feel that the penalty of disqualification for playing from the wrong tees in [USGA Rule 11-4](#) is too severe. Therefore, AustinSkins players who violate Rule 11-4 are subject to a review by the committee and the committee will decide if the player should be penalized and what the penalty should be, if any. Playing longer tees than assigned will usually not be cause for penalty, unless the committee determines that it was done to gain an advantage.
10. **Sign-up & Change Deadline:** The deadline to sign-up is MIDNIGHT the night before the first tee time. Each player will be allowed one exception to this rule in order to accommodate existing habits and new players. After that, late sign ups may or may not be honored, depending on circumstances. The deadline for requests to change wagering options is MIDNIGHT the night before the first tee time, effective immediately for everyone, no exceptions, no grace period.

As always, when you sign up, please use the sign up form, as this allows us to make sure we get your options correct and ensure that we do not forget about a sign up (which has happened before). It is extremely difficult to keep track of a flurry of texts and emails about every player's sign up options. Remember, you are not the only person emailing and texting.