

# 2026 ADMIRAL BAKER GOLF COURSE CHAMPIONSHIP

28-29 JULY 2026

## CONDITIONS OF THE COMPETITION

THE FOLLOWING RULES ARE IN EFFECT 28 AND 29 JULY AND SUPPLEMENT THE ADMIRAL BAKER MEN'S CLUB LOCAL RULES WHICH ARE POSTED ON THE MEN'S CLUB BULLETIN BOARD.

### 28 JULY SOUTH COURSE

1. Players will play in accordance with the primary USGA/R&A Rules of Golf. "Play the course as you find it, play your ball as it lies." Free Relief will only be allowed under the Rules, specifically Rule 16. The "Bare Areas" are a current condition of the South Course and free relief may **NOT** be taken unless specific provisions of Rule 16 are present, such as "Tire ruts ( over ½ inch), temporary water, active animal holes..etc." There is **NO** Free Relief from any unstaked tree or tree well.
2. The "drainage ditch " to the left of the Fairway of #2 is **NOT** considered a Red Penalty Area until it ends with the rocky/cemented area just before the pond ( which is a Red Penalty Area). A ball in that ditch will be played as it lies with the option of Relief under Rule 16 if those specific conditions are met ( "Temporary Water, etc").
3. **Drop Zones.** There are three Drop Zones - Holes #3, #9, #13. They are marked with a Drop Zone sign. Using the Drop Zones is entirely OPTIONAL. For example, on Hole #3 if a player's ball is in the boundary of the Red Penalty Area he may drop a ball within one club length of the Drop Zone sign with a one stroke penalty,( Rule 17) OR play his ball in the Penalty Area as it lies, without incurring a penalty stroke.
4. A ball lying in the Practice Bunker or on the Practice Green to the **RIGHT of Hole #5** may be given free relief if the Bunker or Green interferes with the ball's lie, or the players stance or swing. There is no Free Relief if it is on the Practice Area's fairway.
5. **Course Boundary Fences** on any hole **are NOT** "Immovable obstructions" under Rule 16 but rather define the course boundary. There is NO Free relief if the fence interferes with a player's lie, stance or swing. Rule 19 applies.
6. Hole 13. IF, on a player's approach shot to the green it cannot be determined if the ball cleared the Red Penalty Area, the player **MAY** drop a ball within two club lengths of the area's boundary, no nearer to the hole ( Rule 17) and take a one stroke Penalty. However, he **may** instead of dropping a ball, search for his ball

on the greenside fairway of the Penalty Area and, if it is not found, drop a ball within one club length of the Drop Zone sign in the greenside area. IF he dropped a ball and hit it before crossing the bridge he may NOT drop a ball in the Drop Zone area UNLESS his "Provisional Ball" also did not clear the Penalty Area. In that case he incurs ONE Penalty Stroke for the lost Provisional Ball and one more Penalty Stroke for using the Drop Zone, because the Provisional Ball became the Ball In Play when the first ball was considered lost in the Penalty Area.

## **29 JULY – NORTH COURSE**

1. Players will play in accordance with the primary USGA/R&A Rules of Golf, "Play the course as you find it, play your ball as it lies." Free Relief may be taken ONLY providing the specifics of Rule 16 are met concerning Abnormal Ground Conditions, Immovable Obstructions ( cart paths), Temporary Water, etc.), and Rule 15 ( Movable Obstructions).
2. On SOME holes the area within **TWO CLUB LENGTHS** of the Green has some bare spots. If a player's ball lies in that "close to the Green" bare spot, OR that bare spot is also within two club lengths of his ball and is in his "Line of Play" he MAY move his ball to the nearest spot not affected by the bare spot without penalty. That is exactly the same procedure as the "Greenside Sprinkler Head" Local Rule that always applies.
3. **Bare Spots on the Fairway.** There is **NO** Free relief from a bare spot in the Fairway or Rough, unless the area is enclosed with a White Line. Abnormal Ground Condition, under Rule 16, applies only for truly "Abnormal Conditions" ( temporary water, tire ruts over ½ inch, etc).
4. Hole #13. The Red Penalty Area is defined by the Red Stakes AND the Fairwayside of the Fence that follows the general contour of the Penalty Area. The entire fence is inside the Penalty Area and NO Free relief may be taken if a player's lie, stance, or swing is affected by the fence.
5. The ice plant on the right side of #18 fairway is designated a RED Penalty Area. The specific area applies only to the 18<sup>th</sup> hole and begins below Hole #1 teeing ground and extends through the General Area beyond the 18<sup>th</sup> Green to the utility road. Although this area will not be lined or marked, a ball abutting the ice plant is considered to be in a Red Penalty Area and relief (one stroke penalty) under Rule 17 is allowed.

**RULES COMMITTEE** – The Rules Committee for this tournament is John Bepko, Steve Dillard, and Pat Weishan. All three are 2026 Graduates of the SCGA Rules School. A player who encounters a situation where he is unsure of the correct USGA Rule **MUST** comply with Rule 3.3 ( Stroke Play) and Rule 20 ( Resolving Rules Issues During the Round. Please review the Rules on “Playing two balls” and how to Notify the Committee” ( Rule 20.1c). The Rules Committee will resolve all issues before the Results are announced.

**Playing Two Balls.** Since the Club Championship a few years ago was decided by a Rules Committee Decision after a player hit two balls; the correct procedure is shown below:

1. Under USGA Rules, a player may play two balls **only in stroke play** if he is unsure about the correct procedure for a situation on the course ( Rule 20.1c(3).
2. The player **MUST** decide to play two balls **after the uncertain situation arises and before making another stroke.**
3. The player should inform their fellow competitors which ball they intend to count if the rules allow that choice.
4. **BOTH** balls must be played **all the way into the hole.** If the player only completes one ball, the Rules Committee may rule that the ball first played first should count, which could result in disqualification if the correct procedure was not followed.
5. The situation and the scores of both balls must be reported to the Rules Committee **before turning in the scorecard.** Failure to do so may result in disqualification even if both balls had the same score.