



U.S. Kids Golf PANAMA INVITATIONAL 2026 TOURNAMENT AND LOCAL RULES

Competition Conditions. The competition is tournament of three (3) separate rounds, medal play, with the winner in each category being determined by the lowest number of strokes after completion of the three rounds of play.

Applicable Rules. The Rules of Golf in force on 1 January 2023 (R&A Rules Limited) apply to this tournament. Local Rules will also apply, as indicated herein. In case of need, the Competition Committee is the only authority to amend the Local Rules. All amendments will be made known to all players prior to the round in which these will apply.

Holes per Category. The following categories play 9 holes per round:

- Boys 6 & Under
- Boys 7
- Boys 8
- Girls 8 & Under

The remaining categories play 18 holes per round.

9-Hole Categories 10-Stroke Maximum Score Rule. For all 9-holes categories, there is a 10-stroke limit rule for each hole in place. When a player has reached 9 strokes and has yet to finish the hole, he/she shall lift the ball and record a score of 10 for the hole; and proceed to the following hole. This rule does not apply to 18-hole categories.

Tee Times. Tee times will be posted on the US Kids web site for the tournament. It is the sole responsibility of each Player to know his or her respective tee time and starting hole. Players shall be at their starting hole at least 10 minutes before the assigned tee time. Players will not be called to the tee.

Any player arriving late for his/her tee time, no later than 5 minutes after the assigned tee time, will be assessed a two-stroke penalty in accordance with Rule 5.3. Players arriving more than 5 minutes after the assigned tee time, will be assessed a score of 10 strokes for the assigned first hole of play, and any subsequent hole for which the player does not show up on time.

Disqualification Modification: The U.S. Kids Golf Disqualification Policy (DQP) is that in the case a player incurs a breach of the Rules of Golf that would result in disqualification, the player will receive the maximum score of 10 on any hole where the breach occurs. In situations where the round or hole has been completed, the Rules Committee will determine where to apply the score of 10 penalty. Players who incur this ruling will not be eligible for prizes but will still be allowed to play and earn Priority Status based on their scores.



Rules/Tournament Hotline: If, during your round, you need a ruling or rules official assistance, please call the tournament hotline at **+507 64298165**. Cell phones may ONLY be used by a player or caddie to **1) access tournament information, 2) obtain yardages via GPS, 3) contact the rules hotline, or 4) in emergency situations.** Cell phones may not be used for any other purposes.

Distance Measuring Devices. In this tournament, a player may obtain distance information by use of a distance-measuring device. If, during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance-measuring device to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his play (e.g. elevation changes, wind speed, etc.) the player is in breach of Rule 4.3, and the appropriate penalties will be applied.

Ground Under Repair. Any areas marked within the course with blue lines or stakes, are considered ground under repair.

- Any area in which there is recently planted turf is considered ground under repair.
- Players may take relief according to Rule 16.1.

Hole #1: The area to the left of the cart path; and behind the green on Hole #1, between the cartpath and the fence is marked with a blue line/stake, is considered ground under repair. If the ball is found in this area, players may take free relief in the drop zone marked near the area. The fence is the out of bounds boundary.

Fire Anthills: Please be mindful of fire anthills all over the golf course. Some of these are marked with white or yellow.

Seam of Cut Turf/Sod Seams. Local Rule F-7 under the Rules of Golf is in effect.

Doubt about procedure while playing a hole. (Rule 20.1c). A player who has doubts about an applicable ruling may play two balls and follow the procedures indicated in the rule.

Out of Bounds. Out of bounds are defined by (1) white stakes and/or lines; and (2) metallic or concrete fences. Players must proceed under Rule 18.2. (Stroke and Distance)

- Hole #9: The limit of out of bounds to the right of the fairway is the right side of the curb of the road. The limit of out of bounds along the left side of hole 9 and directly behind the green is the fence separating the course from the buildings.
- Hole #18: The limit of out of bounds to the left of the fairway is the left side of the curb of the road.

Penalty Areas. These are marked with red or yellow lines or stakes. Players must proceed under Rule 17 in the case of any ball which is known, or virtually certain, to have entered a penalty area.

The following are also penalty areas:

- Hole #2: The area to the left of the fairway, between the left side of the cart path and the fence, is a red penalty area.
- Hole #6: The garden area to the left of the fairway, between the fairway and the out-of-bound fence, is a red penalty area.
- Hole #7: All areas to the right of the cart path up to the out-of-bound fences are red penalty areas.
- Hole #18: The area to the left of the fairway, between the left side of the cart path and the road, is a red penalty area.



Gravel/Black Felt Areas Next to the Cart Paths. Stones, gravel and black felt areas next to the cart paths are red penalty areas, even if not marked with red stakes or lines.

MLR I-1.2 - Prior to and after a round in stroke play, a player may practice on designated practice areas. On an official tournament round day, a player **may not** practice on their competition course before or between rounds.

MLR L-1 - In the event a player returns their scorecard without player or marker certification, the penalty will be two strokes.

Slow Play. Special care will be taken in regards of Pace-of-Play. Players must abide to US Kids Pace-of-Play Policy that can be consulted at:

<https://tournaments.uskidsgolf.com/tournaments/info/uskg-policies/pace-play-policy>

Also, scorecards have a Pace-of-Play schedule for each hole. Officers, referees, or supervisors will strictly apply the Pace-of-Play regulations. Penalties for failure to conform to Pace-of-Play are included in the Pace-of-Play policy.

Code of Conduct. Players should appropriately conduct and behave while on the practice grounds and the golf course. Improper behavior or language, damage to the golf course or equipment, or throwing or damaging golf clubs will not be permitted.

Penalties will be assessed in such cases as follows:

1st infraction: Two-stroke penalty.

2nd infraction: Disqualification.

Alcohol or smoking prohibitions. No alcoholic beverages or smoking are permitted in the golf course while the tournament is being played. Any player or caddie that breaks this prohibition will be expelled from the tournament.

Weather Policy. If play is suspended by one long siren or horn blast or verbal direction by the Competition Committee member, the player must immediately discontinue play and look for shelter. All practice areas are closed during suspension for a dangerous situation until the Competition Committee has declared them open for use. Penalty for breach of this rule is a 10 on the first hole when play resumes. It is the player's responsibility to be ready when play resumes that will be signaled by two short siren blasts repeated or verbal direction. All players failing to start play on time after a delay will be assessed a score of 10 on that and any subsequent holes on which their group has already begun play. A player may not join a group during play of the hole; but must join them on the next tee.

The Competition Committee makes all decisions regarding weather delays and/or cancellations on site the day of the event. The intention is to play the event on its scheduled days, and everything possible will be done in order to do so. For purposes of scoring, each 9-hole round will consist of a 5-hole stipulated round and a 4-hole stipulated round, and each 18-hole round will consist of two 9-hole stipulated rounds. Therefore, all 9-hole players must complete 5 holes to be an official round. If all players in an age group cannot complete the full 9-hole round, then the event will be scored based on the 5-hole round. All 18-hole players must complete 9 holes to be considered an official round. If all players in an age group cannot complete the full 18-hole round, the event will be scored based on the first 9 holes played.

Not all age groups complete an official round: If a stipulated round is completed by some age groups and not others, the round will be official for those that finished the appropriate number of holes.

The Competition Committee shall be the sole authority to:

- a) Suspend Play.



- b) Cancel a round.
- c) Modify tournament conditions for any force majeure event that makes it impossible to complete a round or the competition.
- d) Decide continuation of a round or tournament or consider it completed.

Tiebreaks. How to Decide Ties:

- Ties for 1st place will be broken with a sudden death playoff. The holes to be played will be #10, #17 and #18, and will repeat if necessary.
 - If weather or darkness prevents you from completing a sudden death playoff, the winner will be decided by a scorecard playoff.
 - Ties for all other places will not be broken. Points and awards will be split.
- Scorecard Playoff Method:
 - All ties for 18-hole players will be determined based on the best score on the last round. If the tying players have the same score for the last round, determine the winner based on the last nine holes, last six holes, last three holes and finally the 18th hole.
 - All ties for 9-hole players will be determined based on the best score on the last round, last six holes, last three holes and finally the 9th hole.
 - If the players are still tied, continue backward from the last hole until a winner is determined.
 - For 18-hole players, the “last nine holes, last six holes, etc.” is holes 10-18, 13-18, etc.
- If the last round is shortened due to inclement weather, scorecard playoffs will be determined by:
 - 9 holes completed – last six, last three, last hole.
 - 5 holes completed – last three, last hole.

Closing of the Competition. The tournament shall be deemed as closed when the trophy for each category is awarded to the winner.

Competition Authorities. The following persons are the Competition Committee:

- Miguel Durán - Tournament Director/Rules Officer +507 66714111
- José Antonio Brenes - Rules Officer +507 66765068
- Mariana Rengifo - Rules Officer +507 64298165
- Osvaldo Espino +507 66181128
- David Arias +507 69485443
- Jean Pierre De Roux +507 66182569

The Competition Committee decisions will be definitive and unappealable. None of its members acting individually is empowered to make definitive decisions.

The Competition Committee will appoint marshals, officers, and referees, with powers and obligations set forth in the Rules of Golf. Marshals, officers, and referees’ decisions are not final, and may be appealable before the Competition Committee.

