



GOLF ONTARIO

# LOCAL RULES AND CONDITIONS OF THE COMPETITION

For All Golf Ontario Championships and Qualifying Rounds

The Rules of Golf Canada and its Decisions on the Rules of Golf govern play. The following Local Rules and Conditions of the Competition apply and complete text of Rules and Appendices may be found in the 2016 Golf Canada Rules of Golf. See applicable championship's "Notice to Players" and Entry Application for additional Local Rules and Conditions.

Unless otherwise provided, penalty for breach of a Local Rule or Condition is two (2) strokes in Stroke Play or Loss of hole in Match Play.

## LOCAL RULES

**Accidental Movement of a Ball on the Putting Green** – Rules 18-2, 18-3 and 20-1 are modified as follows:

When a player's ball lies on the putting green, there is no penalty if the ball or ball-marker is accidentally moved by the player, his partner, his opponent, or any of their caddies or equipment.

The moved ball or ball-marker **must** be replaced as provided in Rules 18-2, 18-3 and 20-1.

This Local Rule applies only when the player's ball or ball-marker lies on the putting green and any movement is accidental.

Note: If it is determined that a player's ball on the putting green was moved as a result of wind, water or some other natural cause such as the effects of gravity, the ball **must** be played as it lies from its new location. A ball-marker moved in such circumstances is replaced.

**Wood Chips and Mulch (Rule 23)** - Wood chips and mulch are loose impediments unless otherwise provided for in "Notice to Players".

**Artificially Surfaced Roads and Paths - White Lines (Rule 24)** - White lined areas tying into artificially surfaced roads or paths have the same status as the roads and paths, that of obstructions. The line itself is part of the obstruction.

**Ground Under Repair (Rule 25)**

- Area completely encircled by white lines
- French drains are trenches filled with rocks or stones

**Water Hazards (Rule 26)** - When a water hazard or a lateral water hazard is defined on only one side, it is deemed to extend to infinity. When a water hazard or a lateral water hazard is bounded by out of bounds, the hazard margin extends to and coincides with the out of bounds line.

**Out of Bounds (Rule 27)** - Defined by the nearest inside points of white stakes and/or boundary fence posts at ground level.

**Integral Parts of the Course** - Integral Parts of the course includes cables, rods, wires or wrappings when closely attached to trees and artificial walls and pilings when located in hazards, unless otherwise provided for in "Notice to Players".

**Permanently Elevated Power Lines or Cables** - If a ball strikes a permanent elevated power line or cable, the stroke must be cancelled and the player **must** play a ball as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was last played in accordance with Rule 20-5.

**Temporary Immovable Obstructions (Appendix 1, Part A, Condition 4b)** - When temporary obstructions exist at a championship, the status of such obstructions will be in the "Notice to Players". The Local Rule in Appendix 1, Part A, Section 4b is in effect.

## **COURSE PROTECTION**

**Ground Under Repair; Play Prohibited (Rule 25 And Appendix 1, Part A, Condition 2a)** - Except in water hazards, ornamental garden beds, turf nurseries and flowerbeds are ground under repair from which play is prohibited. If a player's ball lies in the area, or if it interferes with the player's stance or area of intended swing, the player **must** take relief under Rule 25-1.

**Environmentally Sensitive Areas (Appendix 1, Part A, Condition 2c)** - When Environmentally Sensitive Areas exist at a championship; copies of the Local Rule will be available from the starter.

## **COURSE CONDITIONS**

**Relief for Embedded Ball Anywhere Through the Green (Note 3 to Rule 25-2 and Appendix 1, Part A, Condition 3A)** - Anywhere through the green, a ball that is embedded may be lifted, cleaned and dropped, without penalty, as near as possible to the spot where it lay but not nearer the hole. The ball when dropped **must** first strike a part of the course through the green.

Note: A ball is "embedded" when it is in its own pitch-mark and part of the ball is below the level of the ground. A ball does not necessarily have to touch the soil to be embedded (e.g., grass, loose impediments and the like may intervene between the ball and the soil).

### **Exceptions:**

1. A player may not take relief under this Local Rule if the ball is embedded in sand in an area that is not closely-mown.
2. A player may not take relief under this Local Rule if interference by anything other than the condition covered by this Local Rule makes the stroke clearly impracticable.

**Aeration Holes (Appendix 1, Part A, Condition 3d)** - Through the green, a ball that comes to rest in or on an aeration hole may be lifted, without penalty, cleaned and dropped as near as possible to the spot where it lay but not nearer the hole. The ball when dropped **must** first strike a part of the course through the green.

On the putting green, a ball that comes to rest in or on an aeration hole may be placed at the nearest spot not nearer the hole that avoids the situation.

**Seams of Cut Turf (Rule 25 and Appendix 1, Part A, Condition 3e)** - Through the green, seams of cut turf (not the turf itself) are deemed to be ground under repair. However, interference by a seam with the player's stance is deemed not to be, of itself, interference under Rule 25-1. If the ball lies in or touches the seam or the seam interferes with the area of intended swing, relief is available

**Stones in Bunkers (Rule 24 and Appendix 1, Part A, Condition 3f)** - Stones in bunkers are movable obstructions. (Rule 24-1 applies).

**Turf Plugs On Putting Green (Rule 16-1c)** - Turf plugs which are not 4¼ inches in diameter or are not circular have the same status as old hole plugs and may be repaired as in 16-1c.

**Animal Hoof Damage (Rule 25)** - Other than on the putting green, damage that is clearly identifiable as having been caused by animal hoofs is ground under repair (Rule 25-1 applies). Such damage on the putting green may be repaired (Rule 25-1 does not apply).

### **DISTANCE-MEASURING DEVICES (Appendix 1, Part A, Condition 7)**

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 14-3.

A multi-functional device, such as a smartphone or PDA, may be used as a distance-measuring device, but it **must** not be used to gauge or measure other conditions where doing so would be a breach of Rule 14-3.

If a player obtains distance information by using a multi-functional device, refer to Appendix IV for additional guidance.

### **CONDITIONS OF THE COMPETITION**

**List of Conforming Golf Balls (Note to Rule 5-1 And Appendix 1, Part B, Condition 1b)** - The ball the player plays **must** be named on the current List of Conforming Golf Balls recognized by Golf Canada. Penalty for Breach of Condition is **DISQUALIFICATION**.

**Stipulated Round (For Qualifying Rounds and Single-Day Championships/Tournaments that start on the Same Hole)** - Qualifying rounds and single-day championships/tournaments will be comprised of two consecutive 9-hole stipulated rounds when all play starts on the same hole. In the event that every player is unable to complete 18 holes but has completed 9 holes and the event is subsequently cancelled, the 9-hole score will count and results for qualifying or the single-day championship/tournament will be based on this score. Nine holes **must** be completed by every person for the event to count.

**Pace of Play (Note 2 To Rule 6-7 And Appendix 1, Part B, Condition 3)** - The player **must** play without delay in accordance with the current Golf Ontario Pace of Play guidelines in effect and posted at all tournaments. Note: Different Pace of Play guidelines are in effect for different forms of competition. The player is responsible for knowing the Pace of Play guidelines and penalties specific to the event.

**Suspension of Play Due to A Dangerous Situation (Note to Rule 6-8b and Appendix 1, Part B, Condition 4)** - Optional Condition as prescribed in Appendix 1, Part B, Condition 4, "Suspension Due to a Dangerous Situation" is in effect. All practice areas are closed during a suspension for a dangerous situation until the Committee in charge of the competition has declared them open.

**Discontinue Play Immediately: One prolonged note of siren.**

**Discontinue Play: Three consecutive notes of siren, repeated.**

**Resume Play: Two short notes of siren, repeated.**

**Practice Between Holes (Note 2 To Rule 7 and Appendix 1, Part B, Condition 5b)** - Optional Condition as prescribed in Appendix 1, Part B, Condition 5b, "Practice Between Holes", is in effect for stroke play competitions only. Between the play of two holes, a player **must** not play any practice stroke on or near the putting green of the last hole played and **must** not test the surface of the putting green of the last hole played by rolling a ball.

**PENALTY FOR BREACH OF CONDITION:** Two strokes at the next hole or in the case of a breach at the last hole of a stipulated round, the player incurs the penalty at that hole.

**Transportation (Appendix 1, Part B, Condition 8)** - Optional Condition as prescribed in Appendix 1, Part B, Condition 8, "Transportation" is in effect for the Ontario Men and Women's Amateur championship rounds and all Golf Ontario Junior, Juvenile, Bantam and Peewee tournaments. Players **must** not ride on any form of transportation during a stipulated round unless authorized by the Committee in charge of the competition.

**How to Decide Ties** - The Golf Ontario Tie Breaking Policy is in effect for all Qualifying Rounds. Copies of the policy are posted on [www.gao.ca](http://www.gao.ca) and available at all qualifying sites.

**Scoring Area** - The scoring area may include, but is not limited to tents or rooms. A player has officially returned his score card when he has returned it to the defined official scoring area and has exited the area with both feet, unless the player verbally informs the scoring official that he needs to leave the scoring area and will immediately return. When a tent is used for scoring, the official scoring area is defined by the outermost limits of the scoring tent posts or when the tent is roped off, the scoring area is defined by the outermost limits of the roped off area.

### **Close of the Competition**

**Stroke Play Championships:** The competition is deemed to be closed when the trophy has been presented to the winner.

**Qualifying Rounds:** The competition is deemed to be closed when the results have been transmitted and approved by Golf Ontario tournament staff.

**Match Play Championships:** The result of a match is considered to have been "officially announced" when Golf Ontario tournament staff have posted the results on the Golf Ontario website.