

QUICK NOTES / MAJOR CHANGES FOR 2024 SEASON - Clarification August 16th.

1. **Model Local Rule G-11 and G-12 will be in effect for the 2024 season.**

G-11

Purpose. Rule 4.3, and specifically Clarification 4.3a/1, puts limitations on the size and scale of detailed green-reading materials. But to ensure that players and caddies use only their eye and feel to help them read the line of play on the putting green, the Committee may further restrict the use of green-reading materials by requiring that players are limited throughout their round to using only the yardage book that has been approved for use in the competition.

“Approved yardage book should contain diagrams of putting greens with minimal detail only (such as significant slopes, tiers or false edges that indicate sections of greens).”

Players and caddies may add handwritten notes to the approved yardage book to help them read the line of play on a putting green, so long as those notes are allowed under this Local Rule.

G-12

Purpose: Clarification 4.3a/1 limits the size and scale of detailed putting green maps and any similar electronic or digital materials that a player may use during a round to help with reading their line of play on the putting green so that a player's ability to read a green remains an essential part of the skill of putting. But a Committee may choose to place even greater emphasis on the judgment, skills and abilities of the player to read their line of play on the putting green by prohibiting the use of any materials for such a purpose.

With G-11 and G-12 in effect under Rule 4.3 players are permitted to use all USGA approved yardage books within the rules. G-12 is effectively in effect the moment a player's ball ends on the putting surface.

For example, a player may look at a heat map in the general area, but the moment their ball is on the putting green, looking at their yardage book would be in breach of Rule 4.3

2. **Driver Shaft Length - Model Local Rule G-10 will not be in effect for the 2024 season.**

Local Rules and Conditions of Competition

The Rules of Golf govern play, except as modified below by GProTour. The following Local Rules and Terms of the Competition apply and may be found in the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf, effective January 1, 2023. See the applicable competition's "Notice to Players" for additional definitions, Local Rules or amendments.

Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule or Condition - Two Strokes.

1. **OUT OF BOUNDS - Rule 18.2**

Defined by the Course Side Edge of white stakes at GROUND Level, the Course Side Edge of all perimeters at GROUND LEVEL, the Course Side Edge of all paved public roads and the Course Side Edge of white lines and dots tying to any of the previously listed areas. A ball which crosses a road defined as out of bounds and comes to rest beyond that road is out of bounds, even though it may lie on another part of the course. Local Model Rule F-26 will be in effect.

2. **PENALTY AREAS - Rule 17**

a. Dropping Zones:

If a ball is in or it is known or virtually certain that a ball that has not been found is in a penalty area and a drop zone is specified on the applicable "Notice to Players" for that penalty area, the player may as an additional option, drop a ball under penalty of one stroke, in the white lined area labeled "Drop Zone" located as indicated on the applicable "Notice to Players". The ball must be dropped in and come to rest within the drop zone. Model Local Rule E-1.1.

b. Relief on Opposite Side of Red Penalty Areas:

Red penalty areas with an opposite side relief option will be indicated on the applicable "Notice to Players". Model Local Rule B-2.1. Note: When the edge of a red penalty area coincides with the boundary of the course, Model Local Rule B-2.2 is in effect and modifies the first paragraph of Model Local Rule B-2.1.

3. **ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITIONS - Rule 16.1**

Local model rule F3 will be in effect.

a. Ground Under Repair:

- Areas completely encircled with white lines.
- French drains, which are trenches filled with rocks or stones.
- Aeration holes in General Area or on Putting Green - Model Local Rule E-4 (relief for ball only).
- Seams of cut turf-Model Local Rule F-7 (relief for ball and stroke only)
- A hole made by a movable obstruction (stakes, signs, tables, chairs or the like) may be treated as Ground Under Repair by the Committee. But interference does not exist if the hole only interferes with the player's stance.

b. Immovable Obstructions:

- White lined areas tying into an obstruction are treated as a single abnormal course condition, not ground under repair.
- When landscaped garden areas (flower beds, shrubbery, or the like) are completely encircled by an obstruction, the obstruction and landscaped area are treated as one abnormal course condition.
- Roads or paths surfaced with wood chips or mulch; the individual pieces of wood chips or mulch are loose impediments.
- When railroad ties, curbing or the like adjoin roads and paths, they are deemed to be part of the same abnormal course condition.

c. Removal of Temporary Water:

Model Local Rule J-2 is in effect. If a ball lies on the putting green and there is interference by temporary water on the putting green, the player may: Proceed under Rule 16.1.

d. Cold Weather TARPS - Will be treated as Obstructions (Rule 16.1) or a Temporary Immovable Obstructions (TIO) (MLR F-23) at the option of the player. TIO relief will be granted for interference with lie, stance, area of intended swing, or interference with your line of play and be between you and the hole."

4. EDGING GROOVES NEAR PUTTING GREEN

Edging grooves are sometimes cut on the apron or fringe of the putting green to keep grasses from creeping onto the putting green. Because it can be difficult to play a ball from such grooves, a Committee can choose to treat them as ground under repair from which free relief is allowed under Rule 16.1.

Model Local Rule F-19 Will Be In Effect

"The edging grooves around the aprons or fringes of *putting greens* are *ground under repair*. If a player's ball lies in or touches a groove or a groove interferes with the area of intended swing:

(a) Ball in General Area. The player may take free relief under Rule 16.1b.

(b) Ball on (including touching) the Putting Green. The player may take free relief under Rule 16.1d.

But interference does not exist if the edging groove only interferes with the *line of play* or with the player's *stance*.

Penalty for Playing Ball from a *Wrong Place* in Breach of Local Rule: *General Penalty Under Rule 14.7a.*"

5. IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS CLOSE TO PUTTING GREENS Model Local Rule F-5.2 is in effect and is modified as follows: For a ball in the general area, relief is allowed only when both the ball and the immovable obstruction lie in an area cut to fairway height or less.

6. TEMPORARY IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS (TIO'S)

Model Local Rule F-23. Includes tents, signs and other temporary immovable obstructions installed for the Competition.

7. INTEGRAL OBJECTS

a. Bunker Liners - The Committee may treat an exposed liner as ground under repair under Rule 16.1. But interference does not exist if the liner only interferes with the player's stance.

b. The portion of wrappings, wires, cables, and other objects when closely attached to trees or objects defining Out of Bounds.

c. Artificial retaining walls and/or pilings when located within penalty areas. d. Gates attached to boundary objects.

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e. Sponsor displays located in penalty areas, lines of or cables anchoring them to TIO and MLR F-22 is in effect.

8. PERMANENT ELVEVATED POWER LINES OR CABLES

Model Local Rule E-11 is in effect and is modified as follows: If it is known or virtually certain that a player's ball hit a power line in bounds, the stroke does not count. The player must play a ball without penalty from where the previous stroke was made in accordance with Rule 14.6.

9. SPECIFICATION OF CLUBS AND THE BALL

a. List of Conforming Driver Heads - Model Local Rule G-1 is in effect. Penalty for making a stroke with club in breach of this Local Rule - Disqualification.

b. List of Conforming Golf Balls - Model Local Rule G-3 is in effect. Penalty for making a stroke with a ball in breach of this Local Rule - Disqualification.

c. The "One Ball Rule" is not in effect.

10. PACE OF PLAY - Rule 5.6b (3).

See posted GProTour Pace of Play Guidelines with the GProTour player handbook for pace of play and penalties.

11. STOPPING PLAY; RESUMING PLAY - Rule 5.7

Model Local Rule J-1 is in effect as follows:

- a. Immediate Suspension (Dangerous situation): One prolonged note of the air horn.
- b. Normal Suspension (Non-Dangerous situation): Three short notes of the air horn.
- c. Resume Play: Play begins at designated time on players time keeping device

Note: During an immediate suspension for a dangerous situation, all practice areas are closed until the Committee has declared them open. Players who disregard such closing are subject to disciplinary action.

12. PRACTICE - Rule 5.

Before or between rounds in stroke play - Model Local Rule I-1.1 is in effect and Rule 5.2b is modified as follows: A player must not practice on the competition course, but may practice on the designated practice areas. Penalty for breach of Local Rule, see Rule 5.2.

13. DOUBT AS TO PROCEEDURE- Rule 20.1 C (3)

Only members of the Rules Committee are authorized to render a Rules Decision. If in doubt as to the correct procedure and a member of the rules committee is not present, a player may play a second ball in accordance with Rule 20.1 C (3) and report the facts to the Committee upon completion of the round. Failure to report the facts to the Committee (even if the scores are the same with both balls) will result in disqualification.

14. GREEN READING MATERIALS

Local model rule G-11. "Rule 4.3a is modified in this way:

During a *round*, the player may use only the yardage book(s) approved by the *Committee*. This restriction also applies to any other maps of the *course*, including hole-location sheets.

Additional restrictions apply to handwritten notes and any other materials used by the player that could help read the *line of play* on the *putting green*:

- Handwritten notes may be added to an approved yardage book or approved hole-location sheet before or during the *round* by the player or the player's *caddie* only and are limited to information gathered by the player or *caddie* only.
- Handwritten notes may contain information gained only through personal experiences of the player or the player's *caddie* from the *course* or by watching a televised broadcast, but are limited to information gained:
 - While observing a ball that was rolled or played (whether by the player, *caddie* or someone else) or
 - Through the player's or *caddie's* feel or general observations of the *putting green*.

These additional restrictions on handwritten notes or other materials do not apply to such information when they could not help the player read the *line of play* on the *putting green* (such as handwritten or printed information containing swing thoughts or listing carry distances for the player's clubs).

During a round, if a player uses:

- A yardage book, other maps of the *course* or a hole-location sheet that has not been approved by the *Committee*,
- An approved yardage book or approved hole-location sheet that contains a handwritten note or information gained in a manner that is not allowed, or
- Any other materials that could help with reading the *line of play* on the *putting green* (whether a specific *putting green* or greens in general), the player is in **breach of this Local Rule**.

"Use" means to look at:

- Any page of a yardage book or other maps of the *course* or a hole-location sheet that has not been approved by the *Committee*, or
- Any of the following when doing so could help the player or *caddie* read the *line of play* on the *putting green*:
 - A page in an approved yardage book or an approved hole-location sheet that contains a handwritten note or information gained in a manner that is not allowed, or
 - Any other materials.

Penalty for Breach of this Local Rule:

- Penalty for first breach: General Penalty
- Penalty for second breach: Disqualification

Local model rule G-11. "Rule 4.3a is modified in this way: "Rule 4.3a is modified in this way:

During a *round*, a player must not use any written, printed, electronic or digital materials to help with reading their *line of play* for any *stroke* to be made from the *putting green*.

Penalty for Breach of this Local Rule:

- Penalty for first breach: General Penalty
- Penalty for second breach: Disqualification."

15. ALL ORNATE / DECORATIVE FLOWER BEDS: *will be treated as a NO PLAY ZONE - relief is mandatory under Rule 16.1f*

16. DAMAGED/BROKEN CLUB: If a player's club is "broken or significantly damaged" during the round by the player or caddie, except in cases of abuse, the player may replace the club with any club under Rule 4.1b(4). When replacing a club, the player must immediately take the broken or significantly damaged club out of play, using the procedure in Rule 4.1c(1).

For the purposes of this Local Rule:

A club is "broken or significantly damaged" when:

- the shaft breaks into pieces, splinters or is bent (but not when the shaft is only dented)
- the club face impact area is visibly deformed (but not when the club face is only scratched)
- the clubhead is visibly and significantly deformed
- the clubhead is detached or loose from the shaft, or
- the grip is loose.

Exception: A club face or clubhead is not "broken or significantly damaged" solely because it is cracked.

Penalty for Breach of Local Rule - See Rule 4.1b."

17. METAL SPIKES - Local Model Rule G-7 In Effect

The tour prohibits any competitor from wearing metal spikes in any round including official practice rounds.

Failure to comply may result in disqualification.

"Rule 4.3a is modified in this way:

During a round, a player must not make a stroke while wearing shoes with:

- Traditional spikes – that is, spikes having single or multiple points designed to penetrate deeply into the surface of the ground (regardless of whether made of metal, ceramic, plastic or other materials); or
- Spikes of any design that are entirely or partially made of metal, if such metal may come in contact with the course.

Penalty for Breach of Rule 4.3:

- Penalty for first breach: General Penalty. If the breach happens between two holes, the penalty applies to the next hole.
- Penalty for second breach: Disqualification. This penalty applies even if the nature of the breach was entirely different than the breach resulting in the first penalty. This penalty only applies if there has been an intervening event after the first breach (see Rule 1.3c(4)).

Should a player have been found to wear metal spikes during the practice round they shall be warned of such actions and LMR will only apply to official tournament rounds.

TERMS OF THE COMPETITION

18. Deciding Ties

In the event of a tie for first place, unless otherwise specified, a hole-by-hole stroke play play-off will determine the winner immediately following the last round.

19. Scorecard Returned

A player's scorecard has been returned to the Committee when the player has exited the defined scoring area with both feet. Prior to returning the scorecard, a player that needs to leave the scoring area must inform the Committee of his intention to leave and immediately return.

20. When Result of Competition is Final

The competition is final when all scores have been approved by the Committee. In the event of a play-off, the competition is final when the play-off scores have been approved by the Committee.

21. Code of Conduct

Please see the code of conduct policy in the GProTour Player Handbook

22. TRANSPORTATION: Model Local Rule G-6 is in effect. Rule 4.3a is modified as follows: During a round, a player or caddie must not ride on any form of motorized transportation, except when authorized or later approved by the Rules Committee. A player operating under a stroke and distance penalty is always authorized.

23. Audio / Cell Phones

During a round, a player must not listen to or watch content of any nature on a personal audio or video device. Local Model G8 in effect.