
(EFFECTIVE FROM **JANUARY 2024**)

The following Local Rules and Terms of the Competition have been formulated after consultation with the Rules of Golf Committee of R&A Rules Limited and, together with any additions as published by the PGA at each golf course, will apply until further notice to all tournaments run under the auspices of the Professional Golfers' Association.

For the full text of the Local Rules, please refer to the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf effective from January 2023 and Clarifications subsequently published by R&A Rules Limited.

SECTION A – LOCAL RULES

1. Out of Bounds (Rule 18.2)

- (a) A ball is out of bounds when it is beyond any wall defining a boundary.
- (b) A ball coming to rest beyond any road defining out of bounds, is out of bounds, even though it may come to rest on another part of the course. Model Local Rule A-5 is in effect.
- (c) All closed gates that are attached to boundary walls and fences are part of the boundary object. Relief is not allowed from such a gate under Rules 15.2 or 16.1 But an open gate is not treated as part of the boundary object and may be closed or moved to a different position.

2. Penalty Areas (Rule 17)

- (a) Opposite Side Same Distance Relief for Red Penalty Areas
The Additional Local Rules sheet will specify which (if any) red penalty areas have a same distance option on the opposite side. Model Local Rule B-2.1 will apply only to the penalty areas that are listed.
- (b) Opposite Side Relief Where Ball Last Crossed Edge of Penalty Area Where Edge and Boundary of Course Coincide.
When a player's ball last crosses the edge of a penalty area where the edge of the penalty area and a boundary of the course coincide, that edge is deemed red and opposite side relief is available under Model Local Rule B-2.2.

(c) Dropping Zones for Penalty Areas.

Where a dropping zone is marked for a penalty area, it is an additional option under penalty of one stroke. The dropping zone is a relief area under Rule 14.3, meaning a ball must be dropped in and come to rest in the relief area.

3. Abnormal Course Conditions (Rule 16.1)

Ground Under Repair

- (a) All areas indicated by Ground Under Repair notice.
- (b) All areas bounded by white lines including spectator crossing points where marked.
- (c) Seams of cut turf: Model Local Rule F-7 is in effect.
- (d) Holes left by movable obstructions in the general area.
- (e) Painted yardage spots situated in the general area cut to fairway height or less. Free relief is available for lie of ball or area of intended swing but there is no relief for interference to stance.
- (f) French drains (stone-filled drainage ditches).

Immovable Obstructions

- (a) White lined areas adjoining any areas defined as immovable obstructions are to be treated as a single abnormal course condition.
- (b) Landscaped garden areas and everything growing in them that are completely surrounded by an immovable obstruction are part of the obstruction.
- (c) Roads or paths surfaced with woodchip or mulch. Individual pieces are loose impediments.
- (d) Staked Trees (**Note:** No free relief available for trees with wrapping only).

4. Embedded Ball (Rule 16.3)

Model Local Rule F-2.2 is in effect and Rule 16.3 is modified in this way:

“Free relief is not allowed when a ball is embedded in a stacked turf face above a bunker”.

5. Immovable Obstructions Close to Putting Greens

Model Local Rule F-5.2 is in effect: For a ball in the general area, relief is allowed only when (i) both the ball and the immovable obstruction lie in an area cut to fairway height or less (ii) the obstruction must be within two club-lengths of the putting green (iii) the obstruction must be on the players line of play and (iv) the ball must be within two club-lengths of the obstruction.

6. Integral Objects

- (a) Wires, cables, wrapping or other objects where they are closely attached to trees or other permanent objects.
- (b) Artificial retaining walls and pilings when located within Penalty Areas.
- (c) Bunker liners in their intended position.
- (d) Stacked artificial materials in the bunker face.

7. Permanent Overhead Power Lines

Model Local Rule E-11 is in effect but only if it is known or virtually certain that a player's ball strikes a power line located in bounds and not the supporting pole/pylon. The player must replay the stroke. (See Rule 14.6).

8. Temporary Immovable Obstructions (TIO)

Model Local Rules F-22 re Temporary Power Lines and Cables and F-23 re TIO are in effect.

- (a) Dropping Zone Policy. In the General Area, when a player's ball lies in or on a TIO or so close to the TIO that it interferes with the stance or area of intended swing and relief is required, the player may:
 - proceed under any of the options allowed under the TIO local rule or Rule 16.1 or,
 - if dropping zones have been marked, as an additional option, the player may drop the original ball or another ball, without penalty, in the nearest dropping zone. This is true even if it is nearer the hole. The Dropping Zone is a Relief Area and a ball must come to rest in and be played from the relief area.
- (b) Either Side Relief. The Additional Local Rules sheet will specify which TIO have an either side option. Either side relief is restricted to **line-of-sight relief only** and is not available when the player chooses to operate under Rule 16.1.

Temporary Immovable Obstructions – Definitions

Examples include but are not limited to, advertising boards, hole number, distance indicators and clocks when situated around teeing grounds, on-course leaderboards and advertising boards fixed to other permanent objects.

Movable Obstructions - Definitions

Examples include but are not limited to, free standing advertising boards situated away from teeing grounds, cameras, microphones and drinks dispensers.

9. Clubs and Balls

- (a) 46-inch Club Length Limitation: Model Local Rule G-10 is in effect. Exception: This rule will not apply to amateurs playing solely in Pro-Am competitions.
- (b) Club Replacement. Model Local Rule G-9 for replacement of a club that is broken or significantly damaged is in effect.
- (c) List of Conforming Driver Heads. Model Local Rule G-1 is in effect.
Penalty for making a stroke with a club in breach of the Local Rule: Disqualification.
- (d) Groove and Punch Mark Specifications. Model Local Rule G-2 is in effect.
Exception: Amateurs participating in Pro-Am events.
Penalty for making a stroke with a club in breach of the Local Rule: Disqualification.
- (e) Conforming Balls List. Model Local Rule G-3 is in effect.
Penalty for making a stroke in breach of local rule: Disqualification.
- (f) The One Ball Rule: Model Local Rule G-4 is in effect.
Exceptions: Amateurs in Pro-Am events and Pro-Am events where the Professional is not marking an individual score.
Penalty for making a stroke at a ball in breach of this local rule: One penalty stroke for each hole during which the player is in breach.

10. Pace of Play (Rule 5.6b(3))

The 2024 PGA Pace of Play Policy is in effect. Please refer to the PGA Pace of Play Guidelines as published by the PGA for further details. Please note:

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF PACE OF PLAY POLICY

1 Bad Time	Verbal warning from referee	
	<u>Stroke Play</u>	<u>Match Play</u>
2 Bad Times	Penalty: One Stroke	One Stroke
3 Bad Times	Further Penalty: Two Strokes	Loss of Hole
4 Bad Times	Disqualification	Disqualification

11. Suspension of Play (Rule 5.7)

The following signals will be used to suspend and resume play:

Immediate stop/dangerous situation – one prolonged note of the siren

Normal non-dangerous stop – three consecutive short notes of the siren

Resume play – Two consecutive short notes of the siren

Note: When play is stopped in a dangerous situation, all practice areas are immediately closed.

12. Practice (Rule 5)

(a) Practice before or between rounds in Stroke Play. Rule 5.2b.

Model Local Rule I-1.1 is in effect. Rule 5.2b is modified in this way: "A player must not practice on the competition course before or between rounds".

Exception: A player may use any recognised practice area situated within the bounds of the course on any day of the competition for practice.

Penalty for breach of Rule 5.2: See penalty statement in Rule 5.2.

(b) Practice on or Near Previous Putting Green Prohibited. Rule 5.5b.

Model Local Rule I-2 is in effect. For stroke play events only, Rule 5.5b is modified in this way: Between the play of two holes, a player must not:

-make any practice stroke on or near the putting green of the hole just completed or

-test the surface of that putting green by rubbing the putting green or rolling a ball.

Exception: This does not apply to Pro Am tournaments.

13. Transportation

Model Local Rule G-6 is in effect. Rule 4.3a(1) is modified in this way: "During a round a player or caddie must not ride on any form of motorised transportation except as authorised or later approved by the rules committee".

Note: A player taking a stroke and distance penalty is always authorised.

Penalty for breach of this local rule: General Penalty for each hole during which there is a breach. A breach between holes applies to the next hole.

Exception: Amateurs may ride in buggies in Pro-Am events.

14. Scoring in Stroke Play

Model Local Rule L-1 is in effect. Rule 3.3b(2) is modified in this way: "If a player returns a scorecard without the hole scores being certified either by the player, the marker or both, the player gets the general penalty (two penalty strokes). The penalty applies to the last hole of the player's round.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF LOCAL RULES

Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a local rule is the General Penalty

Match Play – Loss of Hole

Stroke Play – Two Strokes

SECTION B - TERMS OF THE COMPETITION & REGULATIONS

1. Deciding Ties

The procedure for deciding ties is outlined in the Terms of the Competition as published for each tournament.

2. Returning of Scorecard

The location of the recording area will be detailed on the local rules sheet. The scorecard is returned when the player leaves the recording area with both feet. Any player who leaves this area, prior to returning the scorecard, must inform the Recorder before leaving the area of their intention to return. Score Recorders are part of "The Committee".

3. Results of the Competition – Competition Closed

The competition is final when the official results have been validated in the scoring system by the Score Recorder and approved by the Committee.

4. Modified Rules of Golf for Players with Disabilities

As per Rule 25, Modified Rules of Golf are applied at all PGA Tournaments where a player has applied for and been granted use by the Association.

5. Tournament Regulations

PGA Tournament Regulations apply to all PGA Tournaments run under the auspices of the PGA, which can be found in the Regulations of the Professional Golfers' Association Part 6a & 6b.