

2026 Local Rules

Play is governed by the Rules of Golf (effective January 2023) as approved by Golf Canada, and where applicable, by the following Local Rules, subject to any changes, additions, or deletions.

Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for a breach of a Local Rule is the General Penalty: **Maximum Score (4 over par)** on each hole the penalty may be applicable.

Out of Bounds & Course Boundaries – Model Local Rule A-1:

Out of bounds is defined by the line between the course-side points at ground level of white dots, lines, stakes, or fence posts. Any local rule established by the host club regarding out of bounds will be in effect at each tour stop.

Penalty Areas - Model Local Rule B-1:

Red penalty areas are defined by the course-side points at ground level marked by red stakes or lines. If a red penalty area is marked on only one side, it extends to infinity. When it connects with a course boundary, the penalty area edge extends to and matches the boundary.

The player has four options in a red penalty area:

1. **Play the ball as it lies.**
2. **Stroke and distance:** Play the ball from where the last stroke was made.
3. **Back-on-the-line:** Drop the ball outside the penalty area, in-line with the spot where your ball entered the penalty area and in-line with the hole. You can drop the ball as far back as you want, but it must be aligned with both points.
4. **Lateral relief:** Drop a ball within two club lengths of where the ball last crossed into the penalty area (No closer to the hole).

Dropping Zones for Penalty Areas

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

Abnormal Course Conditions (Integral Objects) – Model Local Rule F -1:

Any drainage ditches filled with stones, also known as French Drains. Flower beds are treated as Ground Under Repair.

The following are integral objects from which free relief is not allowed:

- Wrappings, wires, cables, and other similar objects when closely attached to trees.
- Artificial walls and/or pilings which are adjacent to the edge of bunkers.
- Bunker liners in their intended position. Interference by a liner with a player's stance is deemed not to be, of itself, interference under this Rule.

Ground Under Repair Includes:

Tree Roots – Model Local Rule F-9

- If a player's ball lies in the general area and there is interference from exposed tree roots that are in the general area, the tree roots are treated as ground under repair. The player may take relief under Rule 16.1b.

Ground Under Repair nearby Obstruction – Model Local Rule F-3.1

- White-lined areas and any immovable obstruction tied to them are treated as a single abnormal course condition when taking relief. This includes man-made markers (even if movable), benches, sprinkler systems, and course signage, all of which entitle players to free relief.

Power Lines or Cables - Model Local Rule E-11:

If it is known or virtually certain that a player's ball hit a permanent elevated powerline or cable, the stroke does not count. The player must play a ball without any penalty from where the previous stroke was made.

Practice During Round – Rule I -2:

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.

Penalty for first breach: **General Penalty** (applied to the player's first hole).

Penalty for second breach: **Disqualification**.

Audio & Video Devices - Model Local Rule G-8

Rule 4.3a(4) is modified in this way: During a round, a player must not listen to or watch content of any nature related to the competition on a personal audio or video device."