

McLennan Ross Alberta Junior Tour

Policy & Procedures

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Pace of Play - Rule 5.6

During all McLennan Ross Alberta Junior Tour rounds, players are expected to maintain a reasonable pace of play and avoid unnecessary delays. Players are encouraged to practice **ready golf** whenever it is safe and appropriate to do so, helping keep the game moving efficiently.

Pace will be monitored by Alberta Golf Referees, Marshals, and event staff. Players must make a stroke within 40 seconds once they are (or should be) ready to play without interference or distraction. Players are encouraged to play faster, when possible, to ensure an enjoyable and efficient event for everyone.

Penalty for Breach:

- Penalty for first breach: **Verbal warning.**
- Penalty for second breach: **One-stroke penalty.**
- Penalty for third breach: **General Penalty.**

If you unreasonably delay play between two holes, the penalty applies to the next hole.

Ready Golf:

Ready Golf means playing your shot when you're ready, instead of waiting for the farthest player to go first. It helps keep the game moving but must always be played safely.

How to Play Safely:

- Only hit when it's safe—always check that no one is in your way.
- Be ready for your turn by walking to your ball quickly and planning your shot.
- On the green, putt when ready but avoid stepping on another player's line.
- Communicate with your group and stay aware of others at all times.

Playing Ready Golf keeps the game fun and enjoyable for everyone while making sure safety always comes first.

Provisional Ball:

- Play a provisional ball if you believe your ball may be out of bounds or lost in the general area, be sure to announce your intention to play a provisional ball.

Playing a Second Ball:

If you're unsure about a rule, you can play two balls to finish the hole. Before hitting your next shot, tell your group which ball you want to count. After the round, explain the situation to the Committee before turning in your scorecard. This helps keep play moving instead of waiting for a Referee.

Spectator Policy

Family members and friends are welcome to follow and observe play but please follow these rules to ensure a smooth and respectful experience for all players:

- Spectators are encouraged to remain one shot ahead or 30yds away of the group to assist with ball spotting and minimize interference.
- Walking on fairways is not encouraged; spectators are asked to remain on designated paths or in the rough.
- **Motorized golf carts are prohibited** for spectators unless permitted by the Committee. See Transportation Policy for exemption requirements.
- Spectators must not carry, transport, or handle a player's golf bag, clubs, or pushcart during a stipulated round. However, carrying personal items such as water, snacks, or clothing for players is permitted.
- Offering advice to players is strictly prohibited. Advice is defined as any verbal comment or action intended to influence club selection, stroke execution, or strategic decisions during a round.
- Spectators are not allowed to handle or write on a player's official scorecard. Players are responsible for recording their own score and their competitor's score.
- Cell phones are permitted but must remain on low volume. Refrain from loud conversations or other distractions that may disrupt play. Compliance with host facility cell phone policies is required.

McLennan Ross Alberta Junior Tour will NOT tolerate:

- Objectionable behaviour including unacceptable language, disrespect to other players, Referees, other spectators, volunteers, and/or failure to care for the course.
- Yelling / abusive behaviour towards your child or any other person at any event.
- Acts of violence, racism, sexism, or discrimination of any kind toward any party.
- Unwelcomed physical contact with anyone.

Penalty for Breach:

- First breach of the Code of Conduct: **Verbal warning** from Referee or event staff.
- Second breach: **Removed from golf course immediately; restricted to off course areas only.**
- Third breach or any serious misconduct: **Banned from spectating any McLennan Ross Alberta Junior Tour event.**

Alberta Golf requests that the decisions of the committee and event staff are respected and that reactions to those decisions are made in a respectful manner. If a spectator has an issue with any matter arising at a tour stop, here are the steps to follow:

- Seek out the event staff to report the issue on site. Please respect the staff's time in this regard.
- If further communication is needed, please send an email for your concerns to be addressed to info@albertagolf.org.

Code of Conduct – Rule 1.2b

I will adhere to the McLennan Ross Alberta Junior Tour guidelines for promoting player safety. I understand that Alberta Golf will not tolerate violations of safety guidelines by players, parents, guardians, permitted guests, or coaches, and that MRAJT event staff may penalize and/or disqualify me if I (or the others listed above) knowingly violate such policies at any McLennan Ross Alberta Junior Tour.

- I will conduct myself in a manner that always brings respect and honor to myself and to McLennan Ross Alberta Junior Tour while participating in events.
- I will abide by the Rules of Golf as recognized at all tour stops in which I participate.
- I will refrain from conduct that detracts from my ability, or the ability of others, to attain peak performance while competing in any event.
- I will always act in a sportsmanlike manner consistent with the spirit of fair play and responsible conduct while participating in MRAJT events, and will refrain from unsportsmanlike conduct, including abusive language, cheating, club throwing, and any abuse of golf course property while participating in any MRAJT events.
- I will demonstrate respect for the golf courses that host MRAJT events, including filling divots and fixing ball marks.
- I will neither engage in nor threaten others with any form of discriminatory or bullying behavior, nor with verbal, physical, or sexual harassment, or abuse of any kind, in any medium.
- I will, under no circumstances, engage in acts of violence, racism (including racial slurs), or sexism of any kind toward any party.
- I will respect the property of others (whether personal or public).

Dress Code: Players must wear proper golf attire which includes collared shirts for all competitors. Blue jeans, cut-offs, tank tops, or clothing with offensive language or inappropriate images are not allowed. Please follow the dress code set by the host golf club.

Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drugs: MRAJT has a zero-tolerance policy for alcohol, tobacco, and drugs. These substances are not allowed at any event under any circumstances.

Caddies: Caddies are not allowed on the MRAJT Junior Tour, (except for U11 players). Players may receive a warning if they have too much interaction with spectators during a round.

Violations Include: Unsportsmanlike conduct, including unacceptable language, abuse of clubs, disrespect to other players, referees, spectators, volunteers, and/or failure to care for the course, as well as any bullying, harassment, discrimination, and intimidation.

Event staff may assess any or all the following penalties outlined below, based on the severity and frequency of the violation:

- First breach of the Code of Conduct: **Verbal warning** from Referee or Committee sanction.
- Second breach: **One-stroke Penalty.**
- Third breach: **General Penalty.**
- Fourth breach **OR** any serious misconduct: **Disqualification.**

Note: Under Rule 1.2a, event staff may **disqualify** a player for serious misconduct for acting contrary to the spirit of the game.

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."

Terms of Competition

Max Score - Rule 21.2

The **maximum score on a hole is quadruple bogey (4-over par)** to keep play moving and ensure an enjoyable experience for all junior golfers.

- If you reach quadruple bogey, pick up your ball and move to the next hole with your group.
- If you don't finish a hole, your score will be recorded as quadruple bogey.
- If you pick up, record your score, and let your group know you took a quadruple bogey.

Playing Tips:

- Track your score and be aware if you're nearing the max.
- Play smart, simple shots to avoid big numbers.
- Stay positive! Picking up and moving on keeps the round fun.

Suspension of Play

Stopping & Resuming Play – Model Local Rule J-1:

- **One Prolonged Blow:** Immediate suspension (imminent dangers such as lighting)
- **Three Consecutive Blows:** Normal suspension of play (darkness, unplayable course)
- **Two Consecutive Blows:** Signals resumption of play

Deciding When to Suspend Play:

Event staff will monitor weather conditions throughout each event by referencing **Environment Canada's weather updates** and using appropriate detection systems or visual observations. Adjustments to scheduling, play, or event format will be made as necessary to ensure the safety of all participants, staff, and spectators.

Lightning:

Play will be immediately suspended:

- If lightning is visible or detected within **10km of the host club**.
- If the time between a lightning flash and the sound of thunder is 30 seconds or less.

Player Safety and Precautions:

- Seek shelter in a designated safe area when lightning is in the area.
- Avoid open areas, elevated locations, and contact with metal objects, including golf clubs and carts, during a lightning delay.
- Play will not resume until event staff determine it is safe, following a minimum of 30 minutes without lightning activity in the area.

Rain:

Suspension will occur:

- If the area around a hole is covered in temporary water and it cannot be removed.
- If players must move their ball an unreasonable distance to find a dry area.
- If the host club raises concerns about the overall health of the course should play continue.

Player Safety and Recommendations:

- Ensure appropriate rain gear, such as waterproof clothing and umbrellas, is accessible during rainy conditions.
- Players should exercise caution when walking on wet surfaces to prevent slips or falls.
- Play will resume only after event staff determine conditions are safe and suitable for both participants and the course.

Heat and Humidity:

Suspension will occur:

- If the humidex reaches 40 at any McLennan Ross Alberta Junior Tour event.
- If the temperature reaches 38°C at any point during a McLennan Ross Alberta Junior Tour event.

Player Safety and Precautions:

- Players, staff, and spectators are encouraged to stay hydrated, seek shade, and use sunscreen to mitigate the effects of heat.
- Players are encouraged to wear light, breathable clothing and use hats or visors for sun protection.
- Players showing symptoms of heat-related illness, such as dizziness, nausea, or fatigue, will be removed from play and provided medical attention.

Visibility:

Suspension will occur:

- If players cannot see the landing area.
- If players are unable to read the line of play on a putting green due to lack of visibility.

Player Safety and Precautions:

- Play will resume only when event staff determine conditions are safe and visibility is sufficient to ensure fair and safe competition.

Wind

Suspension will occur:

- If several balls, whether from different players or due to a previous shot, are still moving on the course after they've initially come to rest.
- If players cannot replace their ball to its original location without it moving due to wind.

Player Safety and Precautions:

- Players, staff, and spectators are encouraged to use caution during high winds, avoiding open or exposed areas where possible.
- Loose objects, such as umbrellas or bags, should be secured to prevent accidents caused by gusts.
- Play will resume only after event staff determine that wind conditions have stabilized and no longer impact the fairness or safety of the competition.

Air Quality

Play will be immediately suspended:

- if the Air Quality Index (AQI) is 8 or above.
- If the AQI is below 7 but visibility is compromised (e.g., smoke or haze reducing clarity), play may be suspended based on event staff discretion.

Player Safety and Precautions:

- Players, staff, and spectators are encouraged to exercise caution during poor air quality conditions. Individuals with respiratory conditions should take extra precautions.
- It is recommended to wear masks or protective gear if the air quality is particularly hazardous.
- Play will resume only after event staff confirm that the AQI is below 7 and visibility meets acceptable standards, ensuring no risk to the health or safety of participants and spectators.

Deciding When to Resume and Cancel Play

- Play must be suspended if one of the above guidelines is met.
- If the decision is made to resume play, players will be given 30 minutes to return to their respective holes.
- Rounds can be cancelled only if less than half of the competing field has not completed their rounds.
- If more than half of the competing field has finished their round, then play must resume at the earliest possible moment.

Decisions to suspend, delay, or cancel play will be communicated through:

- Announcements at the event venue.
- Emails or text messages to participants and parents/guardians.
- Updates on the McLennan Ross Alberta Junior Tour website and social media platforms.

Transportation Policy (Cart Policy) – Players & Spectators

Players & Spectators are not permitted to ride on any form of transportation during a round unless authorized or later approved by the event staff.

Electric Push Carts

Any electric / motorized push carts are prohibited from McLennan Ross Alberta Junior Tour play.

A player in breach of this condition is subject to the general penalty.

Exceptions:

- A competitor or spectator with a serious, physical disability (permanent or temporary) may request the use of motorized transportation (golf cart) for themselves at any event by providing a medical/doctor or a permanent handicap placard to event staff present or prior to event.
- If it can save time and ensure prompt pace of play, a Referee can, and should, transport a player.

Withdrawal Policy

Players who withdraw from any event 1 week prior to event, will be refunded in full less a \$5 administration fee.

Players who withdraw 24 hours prior to event will not receive the refund, unless:

- Their spot in the field is replaced by another player.
- Player provides a medical note stating withdrawal is due to injury.
- An unavoidable emergency

Did Not Show – Prior To The Event

If a player doesn't show up to the event, has not communicated with the Alberta Golf or event staff and withdrawn from the event, no refund will be provided, and a DNS will be given to the player.

Did Not Finish (DNF) – During the Event

A DNF or Did Not Finish is given to a player who must withdraw themselves from competition during the round.

- A justified Did Not Finish (DNF) from McLennan Ross Alberta Junior Tour Stops may include.
 - Injury sustained during play.
 - Unavoidable emergency

Unjustified DNF's will be addressed by the event staff and the Director of Competitions at Alberta Golf & Manager of Junior Tour.

Scorecard Responsibilities

Scorecard Returned:

A player's scorecard has been returned when the player has signed their scorecard and exited the scoring area unless the player verbally informs staff of their intention to leave the scoring area and receives permission to do so before leaving.

Missing Player or Marker Certification - Model Local Rule L-1:

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**. The penalty applies to the last hole of the player's round.

After the Competition - Tie Breaking Procedures

Playoffs

- A playoff will be held to determine a low gross winner in any division whenever possible.
- Event staff will coordinate with the host club in advance to select playoff hole(s) and communicate that to the field as needed.

Alternative Procedures

If a playoff cannot be held due to weather, darkness, or other factors, a countback of scorecards will be used to determine the winner.

Scorecard Countback Procedure:

The **player with the lowest score** will be determined through the following countback procedure:

1. Compare the scores for the back 9 holes.
2. If still tied, compare the front 9 holes.
3. If still tied, start from Hole 18, then Hole 17, Hole 16, and continue counting downward until a winner is determined.

Age Division & Yardage

The McLennan Ross Alberta Junior Tour is designated as a U19 tour, requiring all players to be 18 or younger as of August 1, 2026. There is no minimum age; however, it is expected that younger participants possess the appropriate skills and experience to compete safely and successfully. Yardage ranges provided are recommended guidelines to promote fair play. Alberta Golf reserves the right to modify yardages based on course conditions or other relevant factors.

	Division	Age Range	Yardage Range
	U11 Boys & Girls	Under 11	2500yds (9-Holes)
Boys	U13 Boys	Under 13	5300 - 5600yds
	U15 Boys	Under 15	5700 - 6000yds
	U17 Boys	Under 17	6000 - 6300 yds
	U19 Boys	Under 19	6200 - 6500yds
Girls	U13 Girls	Under 13	4500 - 5000yds
	U15 Girls	Under 15	5000 - 5300yds
	U17 Girls	Under 17	5400 - 5700yds
	U19 Girls	Under 19	5400 - 5700yds

U11 Division Changes & Information

- The U11 division is a **9-hole division**.
- Players are permitted caddies.
- Players still receive the **player meal** and are included in **prizing**.

Players in the U11 division who feel comfortable playing **18 holes** are welcome to **register in the U13 division**. This option is available for more experienced players who are ready for the additional holes.