

STANDARD 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 for championships. See applicable championships and qualifiers for the Notice to Players for any modifications or additions to these local rules and event specific Terms of Competition. Complete text of Local Rules may be found in the Golf Canada Official Guide to the Rules of Golf (effective January 2023).

Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for a breach of a Local Rule is the General Penalty.

1. Out of Bounds & Course Boundaries

– **Rule 18.2** Defined by the line between the course-side points at ground level of white dots, lines, stakes, and posts of fences defining out of bounds. A ball is out of bounds when it is beyond any wall defining the boundary of the course.

a. **Gates In Boundary Fences and Walls – Model Local Rule F-26**

Model Local Rule F-26 is in effect. 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. An open gate is not treated as part of the boundary object and may be closed or moved to a different position

2. Abnormal Course Conditions (Including Obstructions) – Rule 16 –

Ground Under Repair includes:

a. Areas defined by white lines.

b. **Flower Beds – Model Local Rule E-8.1**

Model Local Rule E-8 is in effect. All flower beds are no play zones (NPZ) that are treated as an abnormal course condition. Relief must be taken from interference by the no play zone under Rule 16.1f.

c. **French Drains - Model Local Rule F-1**

Model Local Rule F-1 is in effect. Any drainage ditches filled with stones, also known as French Drains, are defined as ground under repair.

d. **Seams of Cut Turf – Model Local Rule F-7**

Model Local Rule F-7 is in effect. Interference exists if a player's ball lies in or touches a seam of cut turf or a seam interferes with the player's area of intended swing. However, interference does not exist if the seam only interferes with the player's stance. All seams within the area of cut turf are treated as the same seam in taking relief.

e. **Tree Roots – Model Local Rule F-9**

Model Local Rule F-9 is in effect. If a player's ball lies in the general area and there is interference from exposed tree roots that are in the general area cut to fairway height or less or in the rough within two club lengths of the edge of the area cut to fairway height or less the tree roots are treated as ground under repair. The player may take relief under Rule 16.1b.

But relief is not allowed if the tree roots only interfere with the player's stance.

f. **Ant Hills – Model Local Rule F-11**

Raised ant hills on the course that are up to two club lengths from the maintained area are, at the player's option, loose impediments that may be removed under Rule 15.1 or ground under repair from which relief is allowed under Rule 16.1.

g. **White-Lined Areas Tying Into Artificially Surfaced Roads and Paths – Model Local Rule F-17**

White lined areas of ground under repair and any immovable obstructions they tie into, and artificially surfaced roads, paths, and the worn areas next to the path or other identified obstructions that they are connected to are a single abnormal course condition when taking relief under Rule 16.1.

3. Immovable Obstructions Close To Putting Greens – Model Local Rule F-5.2

Model Local Rule F-5.2 is in effect. For a ball in the general area, relief may be taken under Rule 16.1b when both the ball and obstruction lie in an area cut to fairway height or less. The ball must be within two club lengths of the obstruction and the obstruction must be located:

- a. On or within two club lengths of the putting green, and;
- b. On the player's line of play

4. Wood Chips and Mulch – Wood chips and mulch are loose impediments.

5. Integral Objects – Model Local Rule F-3.2 The following are integral objects from which free relief is not allowed:

- a. The portion of cables, wires, wrappings and other similar objects closely attached to trees.
- b. Permanent artificial retaining walls and/or pilings when located within penalty areas or which are adjacent to the edge of bunkers.
- c. Bunker liners in their intended position. An exposed bunker liner may be treated as ground under repair by the Committee. However, interference by a bunker liner does not exist if the bunker liner only interferes with a player's stance.

6. Animals Near Ball – Model Local Rule E-13 – An animal that is not defined as a loose impediment and is touching or near a player's ball may be removed. If the ball moves while removing the animal, there is no penalty, and the ball must be replaced.

7. Temporary Immovable Obstructions (TIO) – Model Local Rule F-23

Temporary Immovable Obstructions include, but are not limited to, starting, scoring and pace of play/live scoring tents if in use.

8. Penalty Areas - Model Local Rule B-1

When a red penalty area is defined on only one side, it is deemed to extend to infinity. When a red penalty area adjoins a boundary, the penalty area edge extends to and coincides with the boundary.

9. Permanent Elevated 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 penalty from where the previous stroke was made (see Rule 14.6).

10. Specifications of Clubs & Balls

a. List of Conforming Driver Heads:

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

b. Groove and Punch Mark

Specifications: Model Local Rule G-2

Model Local Rule G-2 is in effect. Penalty for making a stroke with a club in breach of this Local Rule: Disqualification.

c. List of Conforming Golf Balls:

Model Local Rule G-3 Model Local Rule G-3 is in effect. Penalty for making a stroke with a ball in breach of this Local Rule: Disqualification.

d. Replacing Club that is Broken or Significantly Damaged – Revised

Model Local Rule G-9 Revised Model Local Rule G-9 is in effect. Penalty for Breach of Local Rule – **See Rule 4.1b.**

Note: An updated list of Conforming Clubs and Balls is available at golfcanada.ca

11. Prohibited Use of Materials to Help Read the Line of Play for Stroke from Putting Green: Model Local Rule G-12

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.

12. Caddies – Model Local Rule H-1.2

Caddies must register with the Tournament Committee prior to play. A caddie must wear a caddie bib at all times while caddying. A player must not have another player in the competition as their caddie during the round. A caddie may only caddie for one player per competition day. In exceptional circumstances, the Committee may grant an exception at its discretion.

The player gets the **General Penalty** for each hole during which there is a breach of this Local Rule. If the breach occurs between the play of two holes, it applies to the next hole.

13. Pace of Play – Rule 5.6b(3)

Rule 5.6b(3) is in effect. The Alberta Golf Pace of Play Policy is in effect at all competitions. The full policy is available at albertagolf.org and will be in the Tournament Office. **Note:** Rule 5.6a (Unreasonable Delay of Play) is still applicable.

14. Stopping & Resuming Play –

Rule 5.7 Model Local Rule J-1 is in effect as follows:

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

15. Practice

a. Before or between rounds in Stroke Play – Model Local Rule

I-1.2 Model Local Rule I-1.2 is in effect and Rule 5.2b is modified in this way: A player must not practice on the competition course (except on or near their first teeing area or any practice area) on the day of a competition or between rounds. Penalty for first breach: **General Penalty** (applied to the player's first hole).

Penalty for second breach: **Disqualification**.

b. Between holes in Stroke Play – Model Local Rule I-2

Model Local Rule I-2 is in effect and 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.

16. Transportation – Model Local Rule

G-6 Model Local Rule G-6 is in effect and is modified as follows: During a round, players or caddies must not ride on any form of motorized transportation unless authorized or later approved by the Tournament Rules Committee. A player proceeding under a stroke and distance penalty is always authorized to use motorized transportation for that purpose.

The player will receive a **Verbal Warning** for the first infraction and the **General Penalty** upon second breach for each hole during which there is a breach of this Local Rule following the Verbal Warning. If the breach occurs between the play of two holes, it applies to the next hole.

17. Code of Conduct – Model Local

Rule 1.2b Alberta Golf has adopted a Local Rule under Rule 1.2b setting standards of player conduct on the golf course during play at all competitions. The full policy is available online at albertagolf.org and in the Tournament Office.

The Tournament Rules Committee may assess any or all of the following penalties outlined below, based on the severity and frequency of the violation:

- Warning
- One penalty stroke
- General Penalty
- Disqualification

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

18. Scorecard Responsibilities – Model Local Rule L-1

a. **Scorecard Returned** – A player's scorecard has been returned to the Committee when the player has completely exited the defined scoring area, unless the player, prior to leaving, verbally informs the Committee of their intention to leave the scoring area and receives the Committee's permission to do so.

b. Missing Player or Marker

Certification – Model Local Rule L-1 is in effect and 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 may get the **General Penalty** or be **Disqualified at the committee's discretion**. The penalty applies to the last hole of the player's round.