



## LOCAL RULES and TERMS OF COMPETITION FOR GOLF AUSTRALIA AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIPS – 2020

The following Local Rules & Terms of Competition apply until further notice to all Amateur Championships conducted under the auspices of Golf Australia (and designated competitions conducted by any other Committee that adopts this publication).

*Note – A committee is permitted to modify this Hard Card for any or all of its events.*

For the full text of any Local Rule referenced below, please refer to the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf effective 1 January 2019.

Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for a breach of a Local Rule is the general penalty (loss of hole in match play or two penalty strokes in stroke play).

### **1. Out of Bounds (Rule 18.2)**

Beyond the inside line of any wall, fence (or the extension of such wall or fence line) or line of white stakes and/or white lines defining the boundary of the course.

A ball which crosses a public pathway/roadway area defined as out of bounds and comes to rest beyond that area is out of bounds, even though it may lie on another part of the course.

**Note:** Where out of bounds is defined by white stakes or fence posts (excluding angled supports) the line joining the course side points at ground level of such stakes or posts defines the boundary. A ball is out of bounds when all of it lies over such line. (Note: Angled supports of a boundary fence are obstructions.) Where boundary fence posts have concrete bases, out of bounds is defined by the posts (NOT the bases) – additionally, the concrete bases are NOT obstructions.

### **2. Embedded Ball**

Rule 16.3 is modified in this way: No free relief is allowed for a ball embedded in a stacked turf face above a bunker.

**3. Seams of Cut Turf**

If a player's ball in the general area lies in or touches a seam of cut turf, or a seam interferes with the player's area of intended swing, the player may take relief under Rule 16.1b. But 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.

**4. Penalty Areas (Rule 17)**

When a penalty area adjoins a boundary, the penalty area edge extends to and coincides with the boundary.

When a player's ball is found in or it is known or virtually certain to have come to rest in any penalty area where the ball last crossed the edge of the penalty area at a point that coincides with the boundary of the course, opposite side relief is available under Model Local Rule B-2.1.

**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.

**5. Back-on-the-line relief. Playing from outside the Relief Area.**

Model Local Rule E-12 is in effect when taking Back-On-The-Line Relief under any Rule. Note the Back-on-the-line options in Rules 16.1c(2), 17.1d(2), 19.2b and 19.3b.

**6. Immovable Obstructions (e.g. Sprinkler Heads) Close to Putting Greens – Line of Play Interference**

Rule 16.1b applies to immovable obstructions close to putting greens. In addition to the types of interference described in Rule 16.1a, interference also exists with an immovable obstruction if all of the following is true:

- It is on the player's line of play, AND
- It is within two club-lengths of the putting green, AND
- It is within two club-lengths of the ball.

(Exception – There is no relief under this Local Rule if the player chooses a line of play that is clearly unreasonable.)

**7. Integral Objects**

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

- Bunker liners in their intended position.
- Wires, cables, wrappings or other objects where they are closely attached to trees or other permanent objects.
- Artificial retaining walls and pilings when located in penalty areas.
- All roads and paths which are not artificially surfaced.
- Wood-chipped areas are integral objects unless the provisions of another local rule apply (individual woodchips are loose impediments).
- Any closed gate attached to a boundary object.

**8. Temporary Power Lines or Cables**

Model Local Rule F-22 is in effect.

**9. Ball Deflected by Permanent Power Lines**

If it is known or virtually certain that a player's ball hit a power line, the stroke does not count. The player must play a ball without penalty from where the previous stroke was made (see Rule 14.6 for what to do).

**10. Temporary Immovable Obstructions**

Model Local Rule F-23, with any additions or amendments in the additional Local Rules published by the Committee, is in effect.

**11. Abnormal Course Conditions, incl. Immovable Obstructions (Rule 16)**

**a. Ground Under Repair**

- (i) Any area bounded by a continuous or dotted white line, including spectator crossing points where marked.
- (ii) Any area of damaged ground (e.g. caused by crowd or vehicle movement) that is considered by a referee to be abnormal.
- (iii) Clearly defined wheel ruts.
- (iv) Washaways in bunkers and at the margins of bunkers.
- (v) Grass-covered cable trenches.
- (vi) Stone-filled drainage ditches.

- (vii) Ground affected by tree roots on surfaces cut to fairway height or less, or within two club-lengths of surfaces cut to fairway height or less.
- (viii) Yardage painted lines or dots on the putting green or in a part of the general area cut to fairway height or less are to be treated as ground under repair from which relief is available under Rule 16.1. Interference does not exist if yardage painted lines or dots only interfere with the player's stance.
- (ix) Restriction on Relief from Stance on Animal Hole. Rule 16.1 is modified in this way: Interference does not exist if the animal hole interferes with only the player's stance.
- (x) For holes left by movable obstructions in parts of 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 the stance.

**b. Immovable Obstructions**

- (i) The artificial surfaces and artificial edges or borders of roads and paths (includes gravel paths, wood-chipped paths, etc).
- (ii) If two artificially-surfaced paths are adjoining, they are deemed to be the one path.
- (iii) White-lined areas and the immovable obstruction they tie into are treated as a single abnormal course condition.
- (iv) Landscaped garden areas and everything growing in them that are surrounded by an immovable obstruction are treated as a single abnormal course condition.
- (v) Mats that are secured and all ramps covering cables.
- (vi) Staked trees and staked shrubs are ground under repair (the GUR includes the stake and any wrapping).

**12. Temporary Water**

Squeegee Policy for Temporary Water removal

If a player's ball lies on the putting green and there is interference by temporary water on the putting green, the player may take relief under Rule 16.1d or have their line of play squeegeed.

The Committee may squeegee greens until players are nearby and if conditions deteriorate, to keep play going, they may authorise a combination of all the above measures.

Any squeegeeing should be done across the line of play, must extend a reasonable distance beyond the hole (i.e. at least one club-length) and may only be carried out by Committee authorised personnel.

### 13. Pace of Play (Rule 5.6)

In the absence of mitigating circumstances, a group is liable to be timed if it is in excess of the time allowed and in the case of second or subsequent groups, out of position. From the commencement of timing, if any player exceeds 50 seconds on a 'first to play approach shot (including Par 3 tee shot), chip or putt', or 40 seconds if it is a tee shot or 'second or third to play shot', they shall be deemed to have had a bad time.

The time allowed will be determined by the Committee and will be available prior to play. Out of position is defined as being more than the starting interval behind the group in front.

A player whose group is timed will have a bad time carried forward in the round even if the group subsequently arrives back in position or within time.

#### **PENALTY FOR BREACH OF LOCAL RULE:**

**1 Bad Time** Verbal warning from referee and told that if they have a further bad time they will be penalised

#### Stroke Play

#### Match Play

**2 Bad Times** One Stroke Penalty One Stroke Penalty

**3 Bad Times** Additional Two Penalty Strokes Loss of Hole

**4 Bad Times** Disqualification Disqualification

#### Note:

- It is not necessary for players to be advised they are being timed.
- Timings will be taken from the moment it is deemed by the Official that it is the player's turn to play.
- Where a group has been monitored by an official for any period of time, and unofficial timing of individual shots during this period suggests that an individual player, or two of the players in a group, should be timed instead of the entire group, the official

will be authorised at their discretion to officially time only a select member, or select members, of the group.

**When Timing Commences:**

Other than on the putting green, the timing of a player's stroke will begin when it is their turn to play and they can play without interference or distraction. Reasonable time spent by the first player to play in determining their yardage will not count as time taken for the next stroke.

*On the putting green*, the timing of a player's stroke will begin after a player has been allowed a reasonable amount of time to mark, lift, clean and replace their ball, repair damage to the green, and remove loose impediments on their line. Time spent looking at the line from beyond the hole and/or behind the ball will count as part of the time taken for the next stroke.

**14. Modified Rules for Players with Disabilities**

Specified clause/s of the Modified Rules for Players with Disabilities are in effect for a player when approved by the Committee.

**15. Clubs and Balls**

Club Replacement. Model Local Rule G-9 for replacement of a club that is broken or significantly damaged is in effect.

List of Conforming Driver Heads: Model Local Rule G-1 is in effect.

Penalty for making a stroke with a club in breach of Local Rule: Disqualification.

List of Conforming Golf Balls: Model Local Rule G-3 is in effect.

Penalty for breach of the Local Rule: Disqualification.

Note: An updated List of Conforming Clubs and Balls is available on [www.randa.org](http://www.randa.org)

**16. Suspension of Play (Rule 5.7)**

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

Immediate stop for imminent danger – one prolonged note of a siren

Stop for a non-dangerous situation – three consecutive notes of a siren

Resumption of play – two consecutive notes of a siren

Note: When play is stopped for imminent danger, all practice areas will be immediately closed.

**17. Practice (Rule 5.2)**

In stroke play, Rule 5.2b is modified in this way: A player must not practise on the competition course before a round on the day of a competition or between rounds during a competition.

Exception: All recognised practice areas within the bounds of the course may be used by players for practice on any day of the competition.

**18. Transportation**

During a round, a player or caddie must not ride on any form of motorized transportation except as authorized or later approved by the Committee. A player who will play, or has played, under penalty of stroke and distance is always authorized to ride on motorized transportation. The player gets the general penalty for each hole during which there is a breach. A breach between two holes applies to the next hole.

**19. Eligibility**

Players must meet the eligibility provisions established in the relevant Terms of Competition for the specific Championship or Match.

**20. Returning of Scorecard**

A player's scorecard is officially returned to the Committee when the player has left the recording office/area with both feet.

**21. Drugs**

All competitors are subject to drug testing by the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Agency for banned substances as laid down in Golf Australia's Anti-Doping Policy. Any competitor infringing this policy, or refusing to take a test, will be disqualified and subject to any sanction(s) brought down by ASADA. A list of the prohibited substances will be available at registration. Clarification of any medication can be obtained via the ASADA hotline – 13 000 ASADA (13 000 27232), or from [www.asada.gov.au](http://www.asada.gov.au).

**22. Advice in Team Competitions (Rule 24)**

Each team may have one advice giver whom players in the team may ask for advice and receive advice from during the round. The team

must identify the advice giver to the Committee before any team member receives advice from that person.

**23. Deciding Ties**

The method for deciding ties is provided within the relevant entry conditions or is published at the golf course by the Committee.

**24. Results of Match or Championship – Competition Closed**

*Match Play*

The result of a match is officially announced when it has been recorded in the Championship Office.

*Stroke Play*

When the Championship trophy is presented to the winner, the results of the competition are officially announced, and the competition is closed.

In stroke play qualifying followed by match play, Rule 20.2e(2) stipulates that the stroke-play portion of the competition is closed when the player has teed off to start his or her first match.

**25. Code of Conduct**

Where a Committee adopts a special Code of Conduct for an event under the specific authority of Rule 1.2b, the following penalty structure will apply:

First breach	Warning or committee sanction
Second breach	One-stroke penalty
Third breach	General penalty
Fourth breach or any serious misconduct	Disqualification