R&A CHAMPIONSHIPS AND MATCHES

LOCAL RULES and TERMS OF COMPETITON

The following Local Rules and Terms of Competition, together with any additions or amendments published by The R&A at the golf course, will apply to all Championships and International Matches run by The R&A.

For the full text of any Local Rule referenced below, please refer to the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf effective January 2023 and the Clarifications updated quarterly by The R&A, available at www.randa.org.

Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for 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)

1a) A ball is out of bounds when it is beyond any wall defining a boundary.

1b) A ball that is played from one side of a road which is defined as out of bounds and comes to rest on the other side of that road is out of bounds. This is true even if the ball comes to rest on another part of the course that is in bounds for other holes.

1c) Closed gates 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 Penalty Areas (Rule 17)

2a) When a penalty area adjoins a boundary, the penalty area edge extends to and coincides with the boundary.

2b) 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.

3 Abnormal Course Conditions (including Immovable Obstructions) (Rule 16)

3a) Ground Under Repair

(1) Any area bounded by a white line or a white dotted line, including spectator crossing points where marked.

(2) Any area of damaged ground (e.g. caused by crowd or vehicle movement) that is considered by a referee to be abnormal.

(3) Grass covered cable trenches.

(4) French drains (stone-filled drainage ditches).

(5) Seams of cut turf; Model Local Rule F-7 is in effect.

(6) 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.

3b) Immovable Obstructions

(1) White lined areas and the immovable obstruction they tie into are treated as a single abnormal course condition.

(2) Landscaped garden areas and everything growing in them that are surrounded by an immovable obstruction are treated as a single abnormal course condition.

(3) Mats that are secured and all ramps covering cables.
(4) Roads or paths surfaced with woodchip or mulch. Individual pieces of woodchip are loose impediments.

3c) Embedded Ball
Rule 16.3 is modified in this way: No free relief is allowed for a ball embedded in the stacked turf face above a bunker.

4 Immovable Obstructions Close to Putting Greens
Model Local Rule F-5.1 is in effect.

5 Integral Objects
The following are integral objects from which free relief is not allowed:
5a) Bunker liners in their intended position.
5b) Wires, cables, wrappings or other objects where they are closely attached to trees or other permanent objects.
5c) Artificial retaining walls and pilings when located in penalty areas.

6 Player May Remove Animals Not Defined As Loose Impediments From Near Ball
Model Local Rule E-13 is in effect.

7 Temporary Power Lines or Cables
Model Local Rule F-22 is in effect and is modified as follows: mats that are secured and all ramps covering cables are immovable obstructions.

8 Temporary Immovable Obstructions
Model Local Rule F-23, with any additions or amendments in the additional Local Rules published by The R&A, is in effect.

9 Clubs and Balls
9a) 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.
9b) Groove and Punch Mark Specifications: Model Local Rule G-2 is in effect.
Penalty for making a stroke with a club in breach of Local Rule: Disqualification.
9c) 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.

10 Prohibiting Use of Materials to Help Read the Line of Play for Stroke from Putting Green
Model Local Rule G-12 is in effect. Rule 4.3a is modified in this way: 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.
Note: This Local Rule applies in amateur championships and matches only.

11 Pace of Play (Rule 5.6)
Every Championship or Match has a Pace of Play Policy that will be strictly enforced. Please ensure you obtain a copy of the Pace of Play Policy and read it carefully before playing.

12 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.

13 Practice (Rule 5.2)

13a) In stroke play, Rule 5.2b is modified in this way: A player must not practise on the competition course before or between rounds.
13b) In match play, Rule 5.2a is modified in this way: A player must not practise on the competition course before or between rounds.
Exception: All recognised practice areas within the bounds of the course may be used by players for practice on any day of the competition.

14 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.

15 Advice in Team Competitions (Rule 24)
Each team may name one advice giver whom players in the team may ask for advice and receive advice from during the round. The team must identify each advice giver to the Committee before any player on the team begins his or her round.

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

17 Anti-Doping
Players are required to comply with and be bound by any Anti-Doping Policy that is established for the Championship or Match in which they are playing, as detailed in the relevant Terms of Competition, as advised by prior notice or at the golf course.

18 Modification of Penalty Under Rule 3.3b(2) for Missing Player or Marker Certification
Model Local Rule L-1 is in effect.

19 Returning of Scorecard
A player's scorecard is officially returned to the Committee when the player has physically left the recording office/area.

20 Deciding Ties
The method for deciding ties is provided on the relevant entry form or is published at the golf course by The R&A.

21 Results of Match or Championship – Competition Closed
21a) Match Play
The result of a match is officially announced when it has been recorded in the Championship Office.
21b) Stroke Play
When the Championship trophy is presented to the winner, the results of the competition are officially announced, and the competition is closed.
Exception: Qualifying competitions for The Open – refer to the Committee.

The R&A
Effective January 2024