



Federal Competitions and International Matches Local Rules and Conditions of Competition (Hard Card)

Version 01/03/2017

I. LOCAL RULES

The following Local Rules, together with any additions and/or amendments published by the RBGF at the competition venue, will apply to all Competitions and international Matches run by the RBGF.
The Local Rules on the host club scorecard do not apply.

1. Out of Bounds (Rule 27-1)

- a) Beyond any wall, public road, fence or line of white stakes defining the boundary of the course.
- b) On or beyond any white line defining the boundary of the course.

A ball is out of bounds when all of it lies on or beyond this line. When both stakes and lines are used to indicate out of bounds, the stakes identify out of bounds and the lines define out of bounds.

2. Water Hazards (including Lateral Water Hazards) (Rule 26)

Water hazards are defined by yellow stakes or yellow lines. Lateral water hazards are defined by red stakes or red lines.

When both stakes and lines are used to indicate a water hazard, the stakes identify the hazard and the lines define the hazard margin.

Note: Dropping Zones for water hazards

Where there are dropping zones for water hazards, a ball may be played under Rule 26-1, or a ball may be dropped in the dropping zone nearest to where the original ball last crossed the margin of the hazard under penalty of one stroke.

When dropping a ball in a dropping zone, the dropped ball must not be re-dropped if it comes to rest within two club-lengths of the spot where it first struck a part of the course, even though it may finish outside the boundaries of the dropping zone or nearer the hole.

3. Abnormal Ground Conditions (Rule 25-1)

Interference by a hole, cast or runway made by a burrowing animal, a reptile or a bird with a player's stance is deemed not to be, of itself, interference under Rule 25-1.

4. Ground Under Repair (Rule 25-1)

- a) Any area encircled by white lines.
- b) Any area encircled by blue lines or blue stakes: play prohibited.
- c) Through the green, seams of cut turf (not the turf itself) are deemed to be ground under repair. However, interference by a seam with the player's stance is deemed not to be, of itself, interference under Rule 25-1. If the ball lies in or touches the seam or the seam interferes with the area of intended swing, relief is available under Rule 25-1. All seams within the cut turf area are considered the same seam for the purposes of Rule 20-2c (re-dropping).
- d) Gravel-filled drains, whether or not marked.

5. Immovable Obstructions (Rule 24-2)

- a) Federal sponsor boards.
- b) White lined areas adjoining any areas defined as immovable obstructions are to be regarded as part of the obstruction and not ground under repair.
- c) Landscaped garden areas surrounded by an obstruction are part of the obstruction.

6. Protection of trees

Staked trees and plantations surrounded by a plastic sleeve, plastic tube or wire mesh: if such a tree or plantation interferes with a player's stance or the area of his intended swing, the ball must be lifted, without penalty, and dropped in accordance with the procedure prescribed in Rule 24-2b (Immovable Obstruction). If the ball lies in a water hazard, the player must (1) lift and drop the ball in accordance with Rule 24-2b(i), except that the nearest point of relief must be in the water hazard and the ball must be dropped in the water hazard, or (2) the player may proceed under Rule 26. The ball may be cleaned when lifted under this Local Rule.

Exception: A player may not obtain relief under this Local Rule if (a) interference by anything other than such a tree or plantation makes the stroke clearly impracticable or (b) interference by such a tree or plantation would occur only through use of a clearly unreasonable stroke or unnecessarily abnormal stance, swing or direction of play.

7. Stones in Bunkers

Stones in bunkers are movable obstructions (Rule 24-1 applies).

8. Permanently Elevated Power Lines and Cables

If a ball strikes such a line or cable, the stroke must be cancelled and replayed, without penalty (see Rule 20-5). If the ball is not immediately recoverable another ball may be substituted.

9. Embedded Ball Through the Green

Through the green, a ball that is embedded may be lifted, cleaned and dropped, without penalty, as near as possible to the spot where it lay but not nearer the hole. The ball when dropped must first strike a part of the course through the green.

Note: A ball is “embedded” when it is in its own pitch-mark and part of the ball is below the level of the ground. A ball does not necessarily have to touch the soil to be embedded (e.g. grass, loose impediments and the like may intervene between the ball and the soil).

Exceptions: A player may not take relief under this Local Rule if:

1. The ball is embedded in sand in an area that is not closely-mown.
2. Interference by anything other than the condition covered by this Local Rule makes the stroke clearly impracticable.
3. The ball is embedded in the face of a bunker that consists of stacked turf (whether grass-covered or not).

10. Accidental Movement of Ball on putting green.

Rules 18-2, 18-3 and 20-1 are modified as follows:

When a player’s ball lies on the putting green, there is no penalty if the ball or ball-marker is accidentally moved by the player, his partner, his opponent, or any of their caddies or equipment.

The moved ball or ball-marker must be replaced as provided in Rules 18-2, 18-3 and 20-1.

This Local Rule applies only when the player’s ball or ball-marker lies on the putting green and any movement is accidental.

Note: If it is determined that a player’s ball on the putting green was moved as a result of wind, water or some other natural cause such as the effects of gravity, the ball must be played as it lies from its new location. A ball-marker moved in such circumstances is replaced.

**PENALTY FOR BREACH OF LOCAL RULES 1 - 10:
Match Play - Loss of hole; Stroke Play - Two strokes**

11. Distance-Measuring Devices

Except in competitions on the Kids Tour, a player may obtain distance information by use of a distance-measuring device. If, during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance-measuring device to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his play (e.g. elevation changes, wind speed, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 14-3.

**PENALTY FOR BREACH OF LOCAL RULE 11:
Match Play - Loss of hole; Stroke Play - Two strokes.
For subsequent offence - Disqualification**

II. CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION

The following Conditions, together with any additions and/or amendments published by the RBGF at the competition venue, will apply under Rule 33-1 to all Competitions and International Matches run by the RBGF.

1. Eligibility

Players must meet the eligibility provisions established in the entry conditions for the specific competition.

2. The Ball (Note to Rule 5-1)

The ball the player plays must be named on the current List of Conforming Golf Balls issued by the R&A. An updated List of Conforming Golf Balls is available on the R&A’s website (www.randa.org).

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF CONDITION: Disqualification

3. Driving Clubs

Any driver the player carries must have a clubhead, identified by model and loft, that is named on the current List of Conforming Driver Heads issued by the R&A.

Exception: A driver with a clubhead that was manufactured prior to 1999 is exempt from this condition.

PENALTY FOR CARRYING, BUT NOT MAKING STROKE WITH, CLUB OR CLUBS IN BREACH OF CONDITION:

Match play - At the conclusion of the hole at which the breach is discovered, the state of the match is adjusted by deducting one hole for each hole at which a breach occurred; maximum deduction per round - Two holes.

Stroke play - Two strokes for each hole at which any breach occurred; maximum penalty per round - Four strokes (two strokes at each of the first two holes at which any breach occurred).

Match or stroke play - If a breach is discovered between the play of two holes, it is deemed to have been discovered during play of the next hole, and the penalty must be applied accordingly.

Any club or clubs carried in breach of this condition must be declared out of play by the player to his opponent in match play or his marker or a fellow-competitor in stroke play immediately upon discovery that a breach has occurred. If the player fails to do so, he is disqualified.

PENALTY FOR MAKING STROKE WITH CLUB IN BREACH OF CONDITION: Disqualification.

4. Suspension of Play Due to a Dangerous Situation (Note to Rule 6-8b)

When play is suspended by the Committee for a dangerous situation, if the players in a match or group are between the play of two holes, they must not resume play until the Committee has ordered a resumption of play. If they are in the process of playing a hole, they must discontinue play immediately and not resume play until the Committee has ordered a resumption of play. If a player fails to discontinue play immediately, he is disqualified, unless circumstances warrant waiving the penalty as provided in Rule 33-7.

The following signals for suspending play are used:

Discontinue Play Immediately:	one prolonged note of siren
Discontinue Play:	three consecutive notes of siren, repeated
Resume Play:	two short notes of siren, repeated

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF CONDITION: Disqualification

5. Use of mobile phone

Use of a mobile phone by a player or caddie on the golf course is not recommended. However, in case of emergency or danger (for medical reasons, etc.) or to call the tournament office, a mobile phone may exceptionally be used. In any case a mobile phone should be switched off or in silent mode in order to avoid distracting the other players.

1. Use of a mobile phone to ask for or give advice in breach of Rule 8-1: Match Play - Loss of hole; Stroke Play - Two strokes. For subsequent offence - Disqualification (Rule 14-3).
2. Use of a mobile phone as authorised by the Rules but distracting other players:
 - a. First offence: the player is guilty of a breach of etiquette and should switch off his mobile phone.
 - b. Subsequent offence: the player is guilty of a serious breach of etiquette and the Committee may impose a penalty of disqualification under Rule 33-7.

6. Practice between holes in Stroke Play (Note 2 to Rule 7)

Between the play of two holes, a player must not make any practice stroke on or near the putting green of the hole last played and must not test the surface of the putting green of the hole last played by rolling a ball.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF CONDITION: Two strokes at the next hole.

In the case of a breach at the last hole of the stipulated round, the player incurs the penalty at that hole.

7. Transportation

Players must not ride on any form of transportation during a stipulated round unless authorised by the Committee in charge of the competition. [Example: when a specific situation arises, in order to save time, a Rules Official may allow a player to ride with him, or with another person, in a golf cart, not for actual play of the stipulated round, but to and from the place where a previous stroke was made (e.g. lost ball), to go to a spot where a ruling occurred, to seek shelter in case of a thunderstorm, etc. The player may not drive the transportation vehicle himself.]

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF CONDITION:

Match play - At the conclusion of the hole at which the breach is discovered, the state of the match is adjusted by deducting one hole for each hole at which a breach occurred; maximum deduction per round - Two holes.

Stroke play - Two strokes for each hole at which any breach occurred; maximum penalty per round - Four strokes (two strokes at each of the first two holes at which any breach occurred).

Match or stroke play - If a breach is discovered between the play of two holes, it is deemed to have been discovered during play of the next hole, and the penalty must be applied accordingly.

Use of any unauthorised form of transportation must be discontinued immediately upon discovery that a breach has occurred. Otherwise, the player is disqualified.

Note: The Committee in charge of the concerned competition will authorise players presenting a "RBGF Medical Committee Exemption for the Use of Transportation" to use a transportation vehicle conforming to the conditions described in the RBGF Transportation Policy.

8. Pace of Play (Note 2 to Rule 6-7)

a) Time Allowed

Each hole has been given a maximum completion time based upon the length and difficulty of the hole as well as upon the walking distance between the holes. The maximum time allotted for the completion of 18 holes will be available prior to play. As an average rule the Royal Belgian Golf Federation applies the following maximum time allotted on a par-72 course:

- Groups of 2 players: 3h36' (average 12' per hole)
- Groups of 3 players: 4h12' (average 14' per hole)
- Groups of 4 players: 4h30' (average 15' per hole)

b) Definition of Out of Position

The first group and any group after a starter's gap will be considered to be "out of position" if, at any time during the round, the group's cumulative time exceeds the time allowed for the number of holes completed. Any following group will be considered "out of position" if it is more than the starting interval behind the group in front and has exceeded the time allowed for the number of holes played.

c) Procedure when group is Out of Position

1. Rules Officials will monitor pace of play and make a decision whether a group that is “out of position” should be timed. An assessment of whether there are any recent mitigating circumstances, e.g. a lengthy ruling, lost ball, unplayable ball, etc. will be made.

If a decision is taken to time the players, **each player** in the group will be subject to individual timing and a Rules Official will advise each player that they are “out of position” and they are being timed.

The maximum time allocated per shot is 40 seconds. 10 extra seconds are allowed for the first player to play:

- a) on a par 3 hole;
- b) his approach shot; and
- c) a chip or putt.

The timing will start (1) when a player has had sufficient time to reach his ball, (2) it is his turn to play and (3) he is able to play without interference or distraction.

On the putting green, timing will start when the player has had a reasonable amount of time to lift, clean and replace his ball, repair ball marks and clear loose impediments on his line of putt. 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.

2. Timing ceases when a group is back in position and players will be advised accordingly.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF CONDITION:

1 bad time	Player will be warned by the Rules Official and told that if he has a further bad time he will be penalised.	
	<u>Stroke Play</u>	<u>Match Play</u>
2 bad times	Penalty of One stroke	Loss of Hole
3 bad times	Further Penalty of Two strokes	Final Warning
4 bad times	Disqualification	Disqualification

d) Procedure When Again Out of Position During Same Round:

If a group is “out of position” more than once during a round, the above procedure will apply on each occasion. Bad times and the application of penalties in the same round will be carried forward until the round is completed. A player will not be penalised if he has a second bad time before being advised of his earlier bad time.

9. Restriction to who may serve as a Caddie (Note to Rule 6-4)

- A player is prohibited from having a professional golfer serve as his caddie during the stipulated round.
- On the Junior Tour, a player is prohibited from having a person, who exceeds the age limit of the category of oldest participants in the Junior Tour, serve as his caddie during the stipulated round.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF CONDITION:

Match play - At the conclusion of the hole at which the breach is discovered, the state of the match is adjusted by deducting one hole for each hole at which a breach occurred; maximum deduction per round - Two holes.

Stroke play - Two strokes for each hole at which any breach occurred; maximum penalty per round - Four strokes (two strokes at each of the first two holes at which any breach occurred).

Match or stroke play - If a breach is discovered between the play of two holes, it is deemed to have been discovered during play of the next hole, and the penalty must be applied accordingly.

A player having a caddie in breach of this condition must immediately upon discovery that a breach has occurred ensure that he conforms to this condition for the remainder of the stipulated round. Otherwise, the player is disqualified.

10. Returning a Score Card

The player must, within 10 minutes after finishing the last hole of the stipulated round, verify and return his own scorecard in the Tournament Office. A player who fails to do so, may be disqualified by the Tournament Committee. A player is deemed to have returned his scorecard once he has handed over his card to an Official in the Tournament Office and he has left the “Recording Area”.

11. Close of a Competition

When the final results sheet has been placed on the official notice board, the result of the competition is deemed to have been officially announced.