



# Federal Competitions and International Matches Terms of Competition, Local Rules and Code of Conduct (Hard Card)

Version 01/03/2020

## I. TERMS OF COMPETITION

The following Terms, 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. Complete version see General Regulations.

### 1. Eligibility

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

### 2. and 3. See complete version

### 4. Returning a Scorecard

The player must, within 10 minutes after finishing the last hole of the round, verify, certify and return his/her own scorecard in the Recording Area (usually the Tournament Office). A player who fails to do so, may be disqualified by the Tournament Committee.

A player's scorecard is officially returned when he or she has handed it over to an Official in the Recording area and has left the Recording Area with both feet.

### 5. Deciding Ties

Except for competitions over 18 holes, in the event of a tie for first place in a Stroke Play competition, there will be a hole-by-hole Stroke Play play-off to determine the winner. Cfr. General Regulations

### 6. Results of Competition – Competition Closed

6.1 Match Play: The result of a match is officially announced when it has been recorded in the Tournament Office.

6.2 Stroke Play: The result of the competition is officially announced when the final result sheet is placed on the official noticeboard at the competition venue.

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## II. 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 published by the host club on their scorecard or elsewhere do not apply.

**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)

1.a Beyond any wall.

1.b Completely on or beyond any public road.

1.c Completely beyond the boundary edge of the course defined by the course-side points, at ground level, of fence posts or white stakes (excluding angled supports) and those stakes or fence posts are out of bounds.

1.d Completely on or beyond the course-side edge of a white line defining the boundary edge of the course, and the line itself is out of bounds. When a line on the ground defines the boundary edge, stakes may be used to show where the boundary edge is, but they have no other meaning.

All boundary objects (such as stakes and fences) are treated as immovable.

### 2. Penalty Areas (Rule 17)

Penalty areas are defined by yellow or red stakes or yellow or red lines.

**Penalty area no play zone: defined by yellow or red stakes with green top.**

When the edge of a penalty area is defined by lines or physical features, stakes may be used to show where the penalty area is, but they have no other meaning.

**Note:** Dropping zones for penalty areas.

Where dropping zones are marked for a penalty area, they are an additional option for relief under penalty of one stroke. The dropping zone nearest to where the original ball last crossed the edge of the penalty area must be used. 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 (Rule 16.1)

**Abnormal Course Condition no play zone:** defined by blue lines or blue stakes **with green top**.

#### 3.a Ground Under Repair

- 1) Any area encircled by white lines or blue stakes.
- 2) French drains (gravel-filled drainage ditches), whether or not marked.
- 3) If the ball lies in the general area and 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. This means that if a player has interference from any seam after dropping the ball, the player must proceed as required under Rule 14.3c(2) even when the ball is still within one club-length of the reference point (drop a second time, then place).

**Note:** Dropping zones for abnormal course conditions.

Where dropping zones are marked for an abnormal course condition, they are an additional option for the relief options of Rule 16.1. The dropping zone nearest to where the original ball lies in the abnormal course condition must be used. The dropping zone is a relief area. A ball must be dropped in and come to rest in the relief area.

#### 3.b Protection of trees and plantations

Staked trees and plantations surrounded by a plastic sleeve, plastic tube, wire mesh or the like are no play zones that are to be treated as an abnormal course condition. If the ball lies anywhere on the course other than in a penalty area and it lies on or touches such a tree or plantation or such a tree or plantation interferes with the player's stance or area of intended swing, the player must take relief under Rule 16.1f. If the ball lies in a penalty area, and interference to the player's stance or area of intended swing exists from such a tree or plantation, the player must take relief either with penalty under Rule 17.1e or with free relief under Rule 17.1e(2).

Exception: there is no relief under this Local Rule if the player chooses a stance, swing or line of play that is clearly unreasonable.

#### 3.c Animal holes

Interference does not exist if an animal hole only interferes with the player's stance.

#### 3.d Immovable Obstructions

- 1) Federal sponsor boards.
- 2) White lined areas and the immovable obstruction they tie into are treated as a single abnormal course condition.
- 3) Landscaped garden areas (and everything growing in them) that are surrounded by an immovable obstruction are treated as a single abnormal course condition.
- 4) Roads and paths surfaced with woodchips or mulch. Individual pieces of woodchip are loose impediments.

### 4. Integral Objects

**4.a** Artificial retaining walls and pilings located in penalty areas are integral objects from which free relief is not allowed.

**4.b** Any closed gate attached to a boundary object.

### 5. Permanently Elevated Power Lines and Cables

If it is known or virtually certain that a player's ball hit a power line or cable or tower or a wire or pole supporting a power line or cable located in bounds, 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).

### 6. Ball Played From Outside Relief Area When Taking Back-On-the-Line Relief

When taking Back-On-the-Line relief, there is no additional penalty if a player plays a ball that was dropped in the relief area required by the relevant Rule 16.1c(2), 17.1d(2), 19.2b or 19.3b but came to rest outside the relief area, so long as the ball, when played, is within one club-length of where it first touched the ground when dropped.

This exemption from penalty applies even if the ball is played from nearer the hole than the reference point (but not if played from nearer the hole than the spot of the original ball or the estimated point where the ball last crossed the edge of the penalty area).

This Local Rule does not change the procedure for taking Back-On-the-Line relief under a relevant Rule. This means that the reference point and relief area are not changed by this Local Rule and that Rule 14.3c(2) can be applied by a player who drops a ball in the right way and it comes to rest outside the relief area, whether this occurs on the first or second drop.

## 7. Clubs and Balls (Rule 4)

**7.a** Any driver the player uses to make a stroke must have a clubhead, identified by model and loft, which is on the current List of Conforming Driver Heads issued by the R&A. This list is regularly updated and is found at RandA.org.

**7.b** Any ball used in making a stroke must be on the current List of Conforming Golf Balls issued by the R&A. This list is regularly updated and is found at RandA.org.

### **Penalty for making a stroke at a ball in breach of this Local Rule: Disqualification**

There is no penalty under this Local Rule for carrying but not making a stroke with a driver that is not on the List of Conforming Driver Heads, but such a club counts towards the 14-club limit.

## 8. Replacement of Club that is Broken or Significantly Damaged

Rule 4.1b(3) is modified in this way:

If a player's club is "broken or significantly damaged" during the round by the player or caddie, except in cases of abuse, the player may replace the club with any club under Rule 4.1b(4).

When replacing a club, the player must immediately take the broken or significantly damaged club out of play, using the procedure in Rule 4.1c(1).

For the purposes of this Local Rule: A club is "broken or significantly damaged" when:

- the shaft breaks into pieces, splinters or is bent (but not when the shaft is only dented)
- the club face impact area is visibly deformed (but not when the club face is only scratched)
- the clubhead is visibly and significantly deformed
- the clubhead is detached or loose from the shaft, or
- the grip is loose.

**Exception:** A club face or clubhead is not "broken or significantly damaged" solely because it is cracked.

**Penalty for Breach of Local Rule – See Rule 4.1b.**

## 9. Pace of Play Policy (Rule 5.6)

### 9.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 allowed for the completion of 18 holes will be available prior to play. As an average rule, the RBGF applies the following maximum time 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)

### 9.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.

### 9.c Procedure when Group is Out of Position

1) Rules Officials will monitor pace of play and decide 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 allowed per shot is 40 seconds. 10 extra seconds are allowed for the first player to play:

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

The timing will start (1) when a player has had sufficient time to reach his/her ball, (2) it is his/her 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/her ball, repair damage to the putting green and remove loose impediments on his/her line of play. Time spent looking at the line of play is taken into account for the allocated time for the stroke.

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

#### 9.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/her earlier bad time.

#### Penalty for breach of Pace of Play Policy:

1 bad time	Player will be warned by a Rules Official and informed that a further bad time will be penalised.
2 bad times	One stroke penalty
3 bad times	Further two strokes penalty or loss of hole in Match Play
4 bad times	Disqualification

#### 10. Suspension of Play (Rule 5.7)

When play is stopped by the Committee in case of imminent danger, all players must stop play at once and must not make another stroke until the Committee resumes play.

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

Immediate stop/dangerous situation:	one prolonged note of the siren
Normal non-dangerous stop:	three consecutive short notes of the siren, repeated
Resume Play:	two consecutive short notes of the siren, repeated

#### Penalty for breach of Rule 5.7b: Disqualification

(Exception: there will be no penalty if the Committee decides that the failure to stop was justified.)

#### 11. Practice (Rule 5)

##### 11.a Practice before or between rounds in Stroke Play (Rule 5.2b)

Rule 5.2b is modified in this way: a player must not practise on the competition course before or between rounds.

##### 11.b Restriction on practice strokes between holes in Stroke Play (Rule 5.5b)

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 and must not test the surface of that putting green by rubbing the putting green or rolling a ball.

**Penalty for breach of Local Rule:** General Penalty at the next hole.

In the case of a breach at the last hole of the round, the penalty is applied to that hole.

#### 12. Distance Measuring Devices

Only in competitions on the Kids Tour, Rule 4.3a(1) is modified in this way: during a round, a player must not obtain distance information by using an electronic distance measuring device.

#### 13. Transportation Policy

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. [Example: when a specific situation arises, in order to save time, a Rules Official may allow a player to ride with him/her, or with another person, in a golf cart, not for actual play of the 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 or his/her caddie must not drive the transportation vehicle him/herself.]

**Penalty for breach of Local Rule:** General Penalty for each hole during which there is a breach. A breach between holes applies to the next hole.

**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.

#### 14. Restriction on who may serve as a Caddie (Rule 10.3)

Rule 10.3a is modified in this way:

- A player must not have a professional golfer as his/her caddie during the round.
- On the Junior Tour, a player must not have a person, who exceeds the age limit of the category of oldest participants in the Junior Tour, as his/her caddie during the round.

#### Penalty for breach of this Local Rule:

- The player gets the General Penalty for each hole during which he or she is helped by such a caddie.
- If the breach happens or continues between two holes, the player gets the General Penalty for the next hole.

#### 15. Code of Conduct

All players and caddies are required to act in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

### III. CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

#### **1. Unacceptable behaviour by player**

- Failure to care for the course: the player is responsible for (properly) raking bunkers after playing out of them, for replacing his/her divots and for repairing his/her pitch marks.
- Use of unacceptable language towards other players, spectators, officials, or other people, such as impolite, abusive or aggressive language.
- Being disrespectful to other players, spectators, officials or other people.
- Abuse of clubs or the course, such as intentionally throwing or damaging clubs or causing damage to the course or other property.
- Entering Zones defined as ESA.

#### **Penalty for breach**

First breach: One penalty stroke.

Second breach: General Penalty.

Third breach: Disqualification (Committee decision). Additionally, other sanctions, such as a suspension for the next competition or competitions, may be imposed. The facts will be reported to the RBGF.

The Tournament Committee may decide to disqualify immediately in case of a serious breach.

#### **2. Respect for code of conduct hosting Club(s)**

All participants in a Federal Competition are requested to adhere to the code of conduct of the hosting club (dress code, access to facilities and use of infrastructure).

Any participant not adhering to the dress code of the club will not be allowed to start. If during a round a player changes his/her clothes and is not conform the dress code anymore, he/she has to change back to the conforming clothes.

#### **Penalty for breach:**

First breach: One penalty stroke.

Second breach: General Penalty.

Third breach: Disqualification (Committee decision). Additionally, other sanctions, such as a suspension for the next competition or competitions, may be imposed. The facts will be reported to the RBGF.

The Tournament Committee may decide to disqualify immediately on a serious breach.

#### **3. Use of Mobile Phone**

Mobile phones should be switched off or in silent mode. Use of a mobile phone by a player or caddie on the course must be limited to cases of emergency (such as for medical reasons) or danger or to call the Tournament Office.

The use of a mobile phone which is not authorised as above or is unnecessarily distracting other players is a breach of the Code of Conduct.

#### **Penalty for breach:**

First breach: The player is guilty of misconduct and should switch off his/her mobile phone.

Second breach: General Penalty.

Third breach: Disqualification (Committee decision). Additionally, other sanctions, such as a suspension for the next competition or competitions, may be imposed. The facts will be reported to the RBGF.

The Tournament Committee may decide to disqualify immediately in case of a serious breach.

#### **4. Smoking Prohibition for Junior Players**

No player born in 2002 or later shall smoke on the course during a Round.

#### **Penalty for breach:**

First breach: General Penalty.

Second breach: Disqualification (Committee decision). Additionally, other sanctions, such as a suspension for the next competition or competitions, may be imposed. The facts will be reported to the RBGF.

#### **5. Unacceptable behaviour by caddie.**

Like the players, caddies must follow the dress code and golf etiquette. This implies, among other things, a positive attitude and kindness and helpfulness, also towards other players. Negative interventions (anger, shouting, swearing, club throwing, etc.) with regard to the own player, other players, parents, spectators and officials are unacceptable. Possible Rule problems are discussed calmly. It is important that the player gets the final decision in terms of club choice, line of play, etc. The caddy also has an important role in maintaining the pace of play.

#### **Penalty for breach:**

First Breach: Warning (This warning will be carried forward in all future competitions during the same year).

Second Breach: Caddie must leave the course (A caddie who has been told to leave the course will not be allowed to caddie in future events during the same year, unless authorized by the RBGF after a meeting with the caddie).