

LOCAL RULES & TERMS OF COMPETITION 2026

The following Local Rules and Terms of Competition, together with any additions or amendments published by the European Golf Association (EGA) at the golf course, will apply to all Championships and International Matches run by the EGA.

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)

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

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

- a) Ground Under Repair
 - (1) Any area bounded by a white line or a dotted white line.
 - (2) Any area of damaged ground (e.g. caused by vehicle movement) that is considered by a referee to be abnormal.
 - (3) French drains (stone-filled drainage ditches).
 - (4) Seams of cut turf; Model Local Rule F-7 is in effect.
 - (5) 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.

b) 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.
- (4) Roads or paths surfaced with woodchip or mulch. Individual pieces of woodchip are loose impediments.
- (5) Immovable Obstructions Close to Putting Greens. Model Local Rule F-5.1 is in effect.

c) Embedded Ball

Rule 16.3 is modified in this way: no free relief is allowed for a ball embedded in the stacked turf face or from a seam of cut turf in a stacked turf face above a bunker.

4. Integral Objects

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

- a) bunker liners in their intended position;
- b) artificial retaining walls and pilings when located in penalty areas.

5. Player May Remove Animals Not Defined As Loose Impediments

From near Ball

Model Local Rule E-13 is in effect.

6. 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.

7. Clubs and Balls

- a) 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.

- b) 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.

- c) 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

8. 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.

9. Pace of Play Policy (Rule 5.6b)

a) Time Allowed

Each hole has been given a maximum completion time based upon the length and difficulty of the hole. The maximum time allotted for the completion of 18 holes will be available prior to play.

Definition of "Out of Position"

A group is out of position when it has completed play of a hole (meaning that the ball of the last player in the group to hole out has been removed from the hole) later than the maximum

allowable time given (see time chart) and it has not maintained the starting interval with the group ahead of it.

While the above is the strict definition, for additional guidance on whether a group is maintaining its position on the group in front, it will not be doing so if it:

- i. Reaches a par-3 hole that is clear of play and all players in the group in front of them have played their strokes from the teeing area of the next hole.
- ii. Reaches a par-4 or par-5 hole that is not clear of play but that becomes clear of play before all players in the group have played their strokes from the teeing area.
- iii. Reaches a par-4 or par-5 hole that is clear of play.

Note: If a ruling or some other legitimate delay occurs that causes the group in question to be out of position, that group is expected to regain its position within a reasonable time.

In stroke play, players are both allowed and encouraged to play out of turn ("Ready Golf") in a safe and responsible way under Rule 6.4b(2) at any time but especially when their group is out of position.

b) Procedure when Group is Out of Position

- i. If a group is out of position, it will be given an official warning to speed up play.
- ii. If the group does not get back into position and a decision is taken to time the group, each player in the group will be subject to individual timing by a referee. Each player in the group will be advised that they are "out of position" and are being officially timed.
- iii. The maximum time allocated per shot is 50 seconds for the first player to play:

- a stroke from the teeing area;
- an approach shot to the green on a par 4 or par 5 hole;
- a lay-up shot on a par 5 hole;
- a stroke from around the putting green; and
- a stroke from on the putting green

The maximum time allocated per shot for the next player to play is 40 seconds.

The timing will start when a player has had sufficient time to reach their ball, it is their turn to play and they are able to play without interference or distraction. Players will be allowed reasonable time to calculate their yardage. The 50 or 40 second time limit includes all other preparation for the shot, including the time spent interpreting yardage and other conditions (such as wind), putting on a glove, selecting a club, etc.

On the putting green, timing will start when the player has had a reasonable amount of time to lift, clean and replace their ball, repair damage and move loose impediments on their line of play. The 40 or 50 second time limit includes all other preparation for the putt, including time spent looking at the line from beyond the hole, along the line and behind the ball, and any alignment of the ball when replacing it.

- iv. Official timing ceases when a group is back in position and players will normally be advised accordingly.

Note: in some circumstances, an individual player, or two players within a group of three, may be timed instead of the entire group.

Penalty for Breach of Policy: “Bad times” are carried through an entire stroke play championship. For example, a player who gets a “bad time” in Round 1 (a warning) will get one penalty stroke if they get a second bad time either later in Round 1 or during any subsequent round of the championship. In match play, bad times only apply to a specific match, whether 18 holes or 36 holes.

1 bad time	Player will be warned by the 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

c) **Excessive Shot Time**

At any time, if any player is observed by a referee taking more than 90 seconds to play a shot, they will be notified as soon as

possible of the excessive shot time and given a bad time. The Committee may choose to start official timing of the player who has been given the bad time, even if the group is not out of position. In such circumstances, the player is subject to the procedure in iii above (i.e. the 50- and 40-time limit per shot). If the Committee decides not to start individual timing, the player can still be given another excessive shot time, which would be a second bad time resulting in a one stroke penalty.

10. 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.

11. Practice (Rule 5.2)

On any day of the competition, all recognised practice areas within the bounds of the course may be used by players for practice. Putting or chipping on or near the player's first teeing area is permitted.

12. Transportation

In all Championship and Matches conducted by the EGA, players must walk throughout the round. No form of motorised transportation will be permitted except as authorised or later approved by the Committee. A player who will play, or has played, under penalty of stroke and distance is always authorised to ride on motorised 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.

13. Team Captains and Advice in EGA Team Championships (Rule 24)

a) **Team Captain (Rule 24.3)**

Each team must name a team captain who must be an

amateur golfer in accordance with the Rules of Amateur Status as approved by R&A Rules Limited.

Penalty for Breach of Local Rule: disqualification of team.

Procedure if a team has not nominated a team captain: the player whose surname comes first alphabetically will automatically be appointed the team captain.

b) **Advice (Rule 24.4)**

Two advice givers may be named by each team from whom players in the team may ask and receive advice. The first must be the team captain (see 13a) and the second may or may not be a professional golfer. The advice givers must be identified to the Committee via the “Registration Form” prior to the start of the Championship and must remain unchanged for the duration of the championship unless agreed by the Championship Committee under exceptional circumstances.

Penalty for Breach of Local Rule: The advice giver in breach of the Local Rule will lose their advice giver status for the remainder of the championship and be subject to sanction from the EGA Disciplinary Committee.

The advice givers must not walk on the putting green at any time. When the ball of a team player lies on the putting green, the advice givers are prohibited from giving advice for strokes to be made from the putting green.

Penalty for Breach of Local Rule: general penalty.

The advice givers must not ride on any form of motorised transportation during play except as authorised or later approved by the Committee.

Penalty for Breach of Local Rule: first breach: warning; subsequent breach: loss of advice giver status.

14. Eligibility

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

15. 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 published on the EGA website

(EGA EVENTS / TERMS OF COMPETITION / ANTI-DOPING POLICY), advised by prior notice or at the golf course.

16. Modification of Penalty Under Rule 3.3b(2) for Missing Player or Marker Certification

Model Local Rule L-1 is in effect.

17. Reduced Penalty When Player Unaware Ball Moved

Model Local Rule E-14 is in effect and applies only when the player is unaware, before the stroke is made, that the ball might have moved.

18. Returning of Score Card

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

19. Deciding Ties

The method for deciding ties is provided on the relevant Terms of Competition.

20. Results of Match or Championship - Competition Closed

a) **Match Play**

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

b) **Stroke Play**

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

21. Behaviour

Players, captains and advice givers, should conduct themselves in a disciplined manner, demonstrating courtesy and sportsmanship at all times. Behaviour of the very highest order is expected by all players, captains or advice givers towards everyone involved in the Championship. Any player, captain or advice giver breaching the EGA Conduct Guidelines may be subject to disciplinary action by the Championship Committee.

The EGA Championship Committee
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