

LOCAL RULES and TERMS OF COMPETITION

2026

The following Local Rules and Terms of Competition together with any additions or amendments published by the Real Federación Española de Golf (RFEG) will be applied to all events run by the RFEG.

For the full text of any Model Local Rule (MLR) referenced below, please refer to the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf effective 1st January 2023 and the Clarifications updated quarterly by the RFEG.

Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule (LR) 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 (OoB) when it is beyond any wall defining a boundary.
- b. A ball that comes to rest beyond any road defining OoB, is OoB, even though it may come to rest on another part of the course (MLR A-5 is in effect).
- c. Closed gates attached to boundary walls and fences (MLR F-26 is in effect).

2. PENALTY AREAS. Rule 17.

- a. Relief on Opposite Side of Red Penalty Area (RPA).
MLR B-2.1 will apply only to the PP.AA. that are listed on the Additional Local Rules.
- b. MLR B-2.2 will apply when a player's ball comes to rest in a RPA having last crossed an edge that coincides with a boundary.
- c. When a PA adjoins a boundary, the PA edge extends to and coincides with the boundary.
- d. Dropping zones, labelled DZ and listed on the Additional Local Rules, are an additional option under penalty of one – stroke (MLR E-1.1 is in effect).

3. ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITIONS (including Immovable Obstructions). Rule 16.

a. Ground Under Repair.

- (1) All areas bounded by white lines and/or blue stakes.
- (2) French drains (stone-filled drainage ditches).
- (3) Seams of cut turf (MLR F-7 is in effect).
- (4) Animal Holes: prohibiting relief when only stance interference exists (MLR F-6 is in effect).
- (5) Painted lines or dots in a part of the general area cut to fairway height or less. Prohibiting relief when only stance interference exists (MLR F-6 is in effect).

b. Immovable Obstructions.

- (1) White lined areas and the immovable obstruction they tie into are a single abnormal course condition.
- (2) Landscaped garden areas (and everything growing in them) that are completely surrounded by an immovable obstruction are treated as an abnormal course condition.
- (3) Irrigation pipes (when they are not movable). Prohibiting relief when only stance interference exists (MLR F-6 is in effect).

c. Embedded Ball.

Rule 16.3 is modified in this way: "Free relief is not allowed when a ball is embedded in a stacked turf face above a bunker" (MLR F-2.2 is in effect).

4. IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS CLOSE TO PUTTING GREENS.

MLR F-5.2 is in effect.

When both the ball and the obstruction are in a part of the general area cut to fairway height or less the player may take relief under Rule 16.1b. The obstruction must be:

- i. On the player's line of play,
- ii. On or within two club-lengths of the putting green, and
- iii. The ball must be within two club-lengths of the obstruction.

Interference under this Local Rule also applies to any ground under repair marked by the committee that meets the above conditions i, ii and iii.

5. INTEGRAL OBJECTS.

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

- a. Bunker liners in their intended position. An exposed liner may be treated as ground under repair by the Committee, but in such cases MLR F-6 is in effect prohibiting relief when only stance interference exists.
- b. Wires, cables, wrapping or other objects when closely attached to trees or other permanent objects.
- c. Artificial retaining walls and/or pilings when located within a PA.
- d. Artificial retaining walls and/or pilings when located on the edge of bunkers but such objects are not part of the bunker.

6. PERMANENT OVERHEAD POWER LINES.

MLR E-11 is in effect, but only if it is known or virtually certain that a player's ball which strikes a power line located in bounds and not the supporting pole/pylon. Player must replay the stroke (see Rule 14,6).

7. PLAYER MAY REMOVE ANIMALS NOT DEFINED AS LOOSE IMPEDIMENTS FROM NEAR BALL.

An animal not defined as a loose impediment may be removed. If the ball moves there is no penalty, and the ball must be replaced. MLR E-13 is in effect.

8. TEMPORARY IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS (TIOs).

- a. Temporary Power Lines and Cables (MLR F-22 in effect)
- b. TIOs (MLR F-23 in effect).

9. CLUBS AND BALLS.

- a. List of Conforming Driver Heads (MLR G-1 is in effect). Penalty for making a stroke with a club in breach of this LR: **Disqualification.**
- b. Groove and Punch Mark Specifications (MLR G-2 is in effect). Penalty for making a stroke with a club in breach of this LR: **Disqualification.**
- c. Conforming Balls List (MLR G-3 is in effect). Penalty for making a stroke in breach of this LR: **Disqualification.**

10. PACE OF PLAY POLICY AND CODE OF CONDUCT. Rules 5.6 and 1.2b.

In accordance with the RFEA Pace of Play policy and Code of Conduct card in force, if implemented by the event Committee.

11. STARTING AND SUSPENSION PLAY; RESUMING PLAY. Rules 5.3a and 5.7.

- a. The official time is displayed on the clock at the starting tee, or as otherwise provided by the Committee.
- b. The following signals will be used to suspend and resume play (MLR J-1 is in effect):
 - (i) Immediate suspension (such as when there is imminent danger) - one prolonged note of the siren.
 - (ii) Normal suspension (such as when the course is flooded) - three short notes of the siren.
 - (iii) Resumption of play - two consecutive notes of a siren.

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

12. PRACTICE. Rule 5.2.

- a. **Match Play:** Rule 5.2a is modified as follows: A player must not practice on the competition course before or between rounds. (MLR I-1.1 is in effect).
- b. **Stroke Play before or between rounds:** MLR I-1.2 is in effect and Rule 5.2b is modified as follows: A player must not practice on the competition course before or between rounds, but may practice in areas designated by the Committee.

Exception: All practice areas recognizable as such within the boundaries of the course may be used by players for practice on any day of the event.

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. A player (or caddie) who will play, or has played, under penalty of stroke and distance is always authorized. (MLR G-6 is in effect).

Exception: At some tournaments players and caddies may be permitted to ride on a shuttle between specific holes.

14. 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 round.

15. ELIGIBILITY.

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

16. SCORING IN STROKE PLAY.

Modification of penalty under Rule 3.3b (2) for missing player or marker certification (MLR L-1 is in effect).

17. RECORDING AREA AND WHEN SCORECARD HAS BEEN RETURNED.

- a. The recording area will be defined by the Committee.
- b. A player's or team's score card is considered returned to the Committee 15 minutes after:
 - (i) The player leaves the recording area if a physical scorecard is used, or
 - (ii) The scorecard has been entered into an electronic scoring system and validated by the tournament office.

18. DECIDING TIES.

The method for deciding ties is provided on the terms of competitions or is published at the Official Competition Notice Board.

19. WHEN THE RESULT OF THE COMPETITION IS FINAL.

- a. Match Play: When it has been recorded on the recording office/area.
 - b. Stroke Play: When the results have been validated in the scoring system and approved by the Committee.
- In the case of a play-off the competition is final when the results of the play-off have been approved by the Committee.

THE FOLLOWING WILL ONLY APPLY IN PROFESSIONAL PLAYER COMPETITIONS

PRO I. GREEN READING MATERIAL RESTRICTIONS.

MLR G-11 is in effect, except for amateurs playing only in a Pro-Am competition. Only approved materials may be used, and these include:

- (i) Committee Approved yardage books, since 1st January 2022.
- (ii) Committee Approved pin positions sheets, and
- (iii) Maps of the competition course no larger than letter or A4 sized piece of paper.

Players should refer to the additional notice regarding MLR G-11 and the special restrictions that apply to handwritten notes.

Penalty for first breach: General Penalty.

Penalty for second breach: Disqualification.

PRO 2. RESTRICTIONS ON PRACTICE IN STROKE PLAY. Rule 5.

During Round MLR I-2 is in effect and Rule 5.5b is modified in this way: Between the play of two holes, a player must not:

- (i) Make any practice stroke on or near the putting green of the hole just completed, or
- (ii) Test the surface of that putting green by rubbing the putting green or rolling a ball.

PRO 3. DISTANCE MEASURING DEVICES.

MLR G-5 is in effect. Rule 4.3a (1) is modified in this way:

During a round, a player must not obtain distance information using an electronic distance measuring device.

Penalty for first breach: General Penalty.

Penalty for second breach: Disqualification.

PRO 4. CLUBS AND BALLS.

- a. One Ball Rule: MLR G-4 is in effect.
Penalty for making a stroke at a ball in breach of this LR: The player gets one penalty stroke for each hole during which they are in breach of this LR. This LR does not apply to professional or amateur players in any pre-tournament Pro-Am or approved one-day event or to amateurs who partner professional players in a major Pro-Am tournament.
- b. Replacing Club that is Broken or Significantly Damaged: MLR G-9 is in effect.
- c. 46-inch Club Length Limitation: MLR G-10 is in effect. Penalty for making a stroke with a club in breach of this LR: Disqualification. This LR is also in effect in a Pro-Am played as the official competition. This rule will not apply to amateurs playing solely in Pro-Am competitions.

PRO 5. REDUCED PENALTY WHEN PLAYER UNAWARE BALL MOVED.

Model Local Rule E-14 is in effect: If a player causes their ball at rest to move and they fail to replace it before making their next stroke when they were neither aware that the ball had moved nor that it might have moved, the player gets one penalty stroke under Rule 9.4b (unless any of the exceptions under that Rule apply) but has not played from a wrong place if it subsequently becomes known that they caused the ball to move.

PRO 6. EMBEDDED BALL

MLR F-2.3 is in effect. Rule 16.3 is modified in this way: In addition to when relief is allowed under Rule 16.3a, if a referee determines that it is known or virtually certain that part of a player's ball is below the level of the ground in a pitch-mark in the general area that is cut to fairway height or less that has not been repaired in some way and was made as a result of any player's stroke, the player may take free relief using the procedures in Rule 16.3b.

RFEG
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