



2017 European Tour

LOCAL RULES AND CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION

The following Local Rules and Conditions of Competition have been formulated after consultation with the Rules of Golf Committee of R&A Rules Limited.

In the event of a dispute arising as to the meaning of any Rule of Golf, European Tour Local Rule or Condition of Competition, the Rule will be interpreted according to the English Edition of the Rules of Golf or European Tour Local Rules and Conditions of Competition card.

The following listed Local Rules and Conditions of Competition apply to all European Tour events. For the full text of the Conditions and Local Rules, please refer to Appendix 1 of the current edition effective from January 2016 of the Rules of Golf as published by R&A Rules Limited on the pages indicated.

SECTION A – LOCAL RULES

The following Local Rules, together with any additions or amendments as published by the European Tour at each golf course, will apply until further notice to all tournaments under the auspices of the European Tour:

1. Out of Bounds (Rule 27) - Page 116

Beyond any wall, fence or white stakes defining the boundary of the course.

Note:

- Where out of bounds is defined by white stakes or fence posts (excluding angled supports) the line joining the nearest inside points at ground level of such stakes or posts defines the boundary. A ball is out of bounds when all of it lies on or over such line.
- Where any continuing or adjoining white line is in existence, it defines the boundary. A ball is out of bounds when all of it lies on or over such line.
- A ball which crosses a road defined as out of bounds and comes to rest beyond that road is out of bounds even though it may lie on another part of the course.

2. Water Hazards Including Lateral Water Hazards (Rule 26) – Pages 113

Note: Dropping Zones for Water Hazards – Pages 152 - 153

If a ball is in or it is known or virtually certain that a ball that has not been found is in the water hazard and dropping zones have been marked, the player may:

- proceed under Rule 26-1; or
- as an additional option, drop a ball, under penalty of one stroke, in the dropping zone.

3. Ground Under Repair (Rule 25-1) - Page 109

- All areas bounded by white lines including spectator crossing points where bounded by white lines.
- Grass covered cable trenches.
- Seams of Cut Turf - Page 145.
- French drains (stone-filled drainage ditches).

4. Embedded Ball – Relief extended to “through the green” – Pages 142 - 143

Additional exception: A player may not take relief under this Local Rule if the ball is embedded in the face of a bunker that consists of stacked turf.

5. Immovable Obstructions (Rule 24-2)

- White lined areas adjoining any areas defined as immovable obstructions are to be regarded as part of the obstruction and not GUR.
- Decorative landscaped areas (Flowerbeds/shrubberies and the like) surrounded by an obstruction are part of that obstruction.
- Mats that are secured and plastic cable ramps covering cables are immovable obstructions.
- Non-permanent bridges erected for players or spectators are immovable obstructions.

6. Turf Plugs on Putting Green

On any putting green, turf plugs of any size have the same status as old hole plugs and may be repaired under Rule 16 - 1c.

7. Accidental Movement of Ball on Putting Green

Rule 18-2, Rule 18-3 and Rule 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."

8. Integral Parts of the Course

(a) Wires, cables, wrapping or other objects where they are closely attached to trees or other permanent objects.

(b) Retaining artificial walls and pilings when located within water hazards.

9. Permanent Elevated Cables

If a ball strikes an elevated power line, telephone line or cable, the stroke is cancelled and the player must play a ball as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was played in accordance with Rule 20-5 (Making Next Stroke from Where Previous Stroke Made). If the ball is not immediately recoverable, another ball may be substituted.

Exception: Ball striking elevated junction section of cable rising from the ground is not replayed.

10. Temporary Immovable Obstructions – Pages 147 – 151

The complete text under Temporary Immovable Obstructions apply and including the clause relating to Temporary Power Lines and Cables.

Note: Through the green, when a player's ball lies in, on or under a temporary immovable obstruction or so close to that obstruction that it interferes with his stance or area of intended swing and relief is required, he may proceed under any of the options available under the Rule, or if dropping zones have been marked, as an additional option, he **may** drop the ball, without penalty, in the nearest dropping zone.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF LOCAL RULES

Match Play – Loss of Hole

Stroke Play – Two Strokes

SECTION B – CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION

1. (a) List of Conforming Driver Heads – Pages 154 - 155

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.

Penalty for making a stroke with club in Breach of Condition – Disqualification.

(b) Groove and Punch Mark Specification – (Decision 4-1/1) - Pages 174 - 176

The player's clubs must conform to the groove and punch mark specifications in the Rules of Golf that are effective from 1 January 2010.

Penalty for making a stroke with club in Breach of Condition – Disqualification.

(c) Specification of the Ball (Note to Rule 5-1)

(i) **List of Conforming Golf Balls** – Pages 155 – 156

(ii) **One-Ball Condition** – Page 156 (Exception: This condition does not apply to Professional or Amateur players in any pre-tournament Pro-Am or Approved One-Day Event or Amateurs partnering professional players in a major Pro-Am tournament).

2. Pace of Play (Note 2 to Rule 6-7) – Page 158

In the absence of mitigating circumstances, a group is liable to be timed if it is in excess of the time allowed and in the case of second or subsequent groups, Out of Position. From the commencement of timing, if any player exceeds 50 seconds on a 'first to play approach shot (including Par 3 tee shot), chip or putt', or 40 seconds if it is a tee shot or 'second or third to play shot', he is deemed to have had a 'bad time'.

The time allowed will be determined by the Chief Referee and will be published on the official notice board. 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 completed.

A player whose group is timed will have a bad time carried forward in the round even if the group subsequently arrives back in position or within time.

Penalty for Breach of Condition:

One bad time - Verbal warning from Referee.

Two bad times - One stroke penalty and €3,300 (or the sterling equivalent of £3,000) fine.

Three bad times - Two stroke penalty and €6,600 (or the sterling equivalent of £6,000) fine.

Four bad times - Disqualification.

Notes: (1) Players will be advised that they are being timed.

(2) Timings will be taken from the moment it is deemed by the Referee that it is the player's turn to play.

(3) In addition, please note European Tour general regulation in Members' Handbook.

(4) In some circumstances, an individual player, or two players within a group of three, may be timed instead of the entire group.

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

– Page 158

4. Practice Between Holes (Note 2 to Rule 7) - Page 159 (This condition does not apply to pre-tournament Pro-Ams or Matchplay tournaments.) N.B. This prohibition includes rolling a ball on the putting green of the hole last played.

5. Transportation – Page 159 (Exception; When permitted to ride by The Rules Committee.)

6. Anti-Doping

Players are required to comply with and be bound by the European Tour's Anti-Doping Policy (the Anti-Doping Policy). [The current version of the Anti-Doping Policy may be viewed on the players website: <https://members.europeantour.com>].

Note: Players should be aware that, under the Anti-Doping Policy, if a player is found to have committed an anti-doping rule violation, he may face disqualification both from the tournament at which he was tested (or otherwise committed the violation) and from any subsequent tournament in which he participated until provisionally suspended or rendered ineligible under the Policy. Disqualification in such cases includes the loss of all results, points and prize money.

7. How to Decide Ties

In the event of a tie for first place, there will be a hole-by-hole play-off to determine the winner.

8. Result of the Competition – Competition Closed

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

THE FOLLOWING APPLY IN EUROPEAN TOUR COMPETITIONS ONLY

Temporary Immovable Obstructions – Definitions

Examples include but are not limited to; Clocks, advertising boards fixed to other temporary immovable obstructions or advertising boards and hole number distance indicators that are **situated around teeing grounds.**

Movable Obstructions – Definitions

Examples include but are not limited to; free-standing advertising boards situated away from teeing grounds, drinks dispensers, all cameras and their tripods, TV microphones, free standing radio scoring masts and crossing point indicators.

10. Metal Fencing

- (a) If a player has interference from metal fencing, Rule 24-2 will apply. In this specific case, the player must determine the nearest point of relief without crossing over, through or under the fencing. A player who takes relief under this Clause is not then entitled to proceed under Clause (b) of this Local Rule.
- (b) As an additional option, relief is available when the ball lies “through the green” on the outside of the fencing and within four club-lengths of it, and providing that the fencing intervenes directly between the player’s ball and the hole (or the ball lies within one club-length of a spot equidistant from the hole where such intervention would exist). In this case, the ball may be lifted and dropped, without penalty, inside the fencing under Rule 24-2b(i). The ‘nearest point of relief’ under that Rule is the nearest point inside the fencing that (i) is not nearer the hole than the ball’s original position, (ii) avoids interference as defined in Rule 24-2a and (iii) is not in a hazard and not on a putting green. The ball may be cleaned when so lifted.

Exceptions:

1. No relief under this Local Rule is available from metal fencing that is closely attached to a TIO. Such fencing is deemed to be part of the TIO.
2. Single units of metal fencing are movable obstructions; Rule 24-1 applies.
3. A player may not obtain relief under this Local Rule if (a) interference by anything other than the metal fencing makes the stroke clearly impracticable or (b) interference by the metal fencing would occur only through the use of a clearly unreasonable stroke or an unnecessarily abnormal stance, swing or direction of play.

11. Stones in Bunkers – Pages 145 - 146

Stones in bunkers are movable obstructions.

12. Abnormal Ground Conditions – Rule 25-1 Note

- (a) Relief will be denied for interference to stance from a hole, cast or runway made by a burrowing animal, a reptile or a bird.
- (b) Relief is available for lie of ball or area of intended swing from any painted yardage spot situated in any closely mown area through the green.
- Note: This does not include painted distances on long driving holes.

13. Distance -Measuring Devices – Page 153

May be used in pre-tournament pro-ams **only.**

Recording Area, Scorecard returned.

The recording area may include but is not limited to; temporary buildings, tents or permanent rooms. Others may be defined on the official notice board. A scorecard will be deemed returned when a player has completely left the recording area.