


MODEL LOCAL RULES INDEX – 2023 RULES OF GOLF



Updated 4th January 2024

NOTE:  Highlight indicate new or updated MLRs

Course Boundaries and Out of Bounds

- A-1 Common Ways of Defining Boundaries and Boundary Edges
- A-2 Clarifying Boundary When Using Wall, Road or Other Objects
- A-3  Boundary Fence to be Treated in a Different Way
- A-4 Internal Out of Bounds
- A-5 Out of Bounds When Public Road Runs Through Course
- A-6 Stakes Showing Out of Bounds


Penalty Areas

- B-1 Defining Penalty Areas
- B-2 Relief on Opposite Side of Red Penalty Area
- B-3 Provisional Ball for Ball in a Penalty Area
- B-4 Defining Open Watercourse as Part of General Area
- B-5 Special Relief When Penalty Area Next to Bunker




Bunkers

- C-1 Clarifying Edge of Bunker
- C-2 Changing Status of Areas of Sand
- C-3 Clarifying Status of Material Similar to Sand when Material is not in a Bunker
- C-4 Declaring Practice Bunkers to Be Part of General Area





Putting Greens

- D-1 Clarifying Edge of Putting Green
- D-2 Status of Putting Green When Temporary Putting Green Is Used
- D-3 Prohibiting Relief from Wrong Green When Only Stance Interference Exists
- D-4  Prohibiting Play from Fringe of Wrong Green
- D-5 Status of Practice Green or Temporary Green
- D-6 Dividing a Double Green into Two Separate Greens

Special Relief Procedures





- E-1 Dropping Zones
- E-2 Cleaning Ball
- E-3 Preferred Lies
- E-4 Relief from Aeration Holes
- E-5 Alternative to Stroke and Distance for Lost Ball or Ball Out of Bounds
- E-6 Line of Play Relief for Protective Fence
- E-7 Relief from Electric Boundary Fence
- E-8 Defining No Play Zones
- E-9 Defining an Area of Out of Bounds as a No Play Zone
- E-10  Protection of Young Trees
- E-11 Ball Deflected by Power Line
- E-12  Compulsory Use of Fairway Mats
- E-13  Player May Remove Animals Not Defined As Loose Impediments From Near Ball

Abnormal Course Conditions and Integral Objects

- F-1 Defining Abnormal Course Conditions and Integral Objects
- F-2 Limited Relief for Embedded Ball
- F-3 Ground Under Repair Treated as Part of Nearby Obstruction
- F-4 Extensive Damage Due to Heavy Rain and Traffic
- F-5  **Immovable Obstructions Close to Putting Greens**
- F-6 Prohibiting Relief from Abnormal Course Condition When Only Stance Interference Exists
- F-7 Relief from Seams of Cut Turf
- F-8 Relief from Cracks in Ground
- F-9 Relief from Tree Roots in or Close to Fairway
- F-10 Damage by Animals
- F-11 Ant Hills
- F-12 Animal Dung
- F-13 Animal Hoof Damage
- F-14 Accumulations of Loose Impediments
- F-15 Mushrooms on Putting Green
- F-16 Bunker Filled with Temporary Water
- F-17 All Roads and Paths Treated as Obstructions
- F-18 Treating Movable Objects to Be Immovable
- F-19 Edging Grooves Near Putting Greens
- F-20 Concrete Drainage Channels
- F-21 Painted Lines or Dots
- F-22 Temporary Lines and Cables
- F-23 Temporary Immovable Obstructions
- F-24  **Free Relief From Immovable Obstructions in Penalty Areas**
- F-25  **Nearest Point of Complete Relief to be Determined Without Crossing Over, Through or Under Abnormal Course Condition**
- F-26  **Gates in Boundary Fences and Walls**



Restrictions on Use of Specific Equipment

- G-1 List of Conforming Driver Heads
- G-2 Groove and Punch Mark Specifications
- G-3 List of Conforming Golf Balls
- G-4 One Ball Rule
- G-5 Prohibiting Use of Distance-Measuring Devices
- G-6 Prohibiting Use of Motorized Transportation
- G-7 Prohibiting Use of Certain Types of Shoes
- G-8 Prohibiting or Restricting Use of Audio and Video Devices
- G-9  **Replacing Club that is Broken or Significantly Damaged**
- G-10  **Prohibiting Use of Clubs Longer than 46 Inches**
- G-11  **Restricting Use of Green-Reading Materials**
- G-12  **Prohibiting Use of Materials to Help Read the Line of Play for Stroke from Putting Green**

Defining Who May Help or Give Advice to Players

- H-1 Use of Caddie Prohibited or Required; Caddie Restrictions
- H-2 Appointment of Advice Giver in Team Competitions
- H-3 Restricting Who Can Be a Team Captain
- H-4 Treating Advice Giver as Part of the Player's Side
- H-5 Advice: Team Members in Same Group

Defining When and Where Players May Practise

- I-1 Practising Before Rounds
- I-2 Prohibiting Practising on or Near Previous Putting Green



Procedures for Bad Weather and Suspensions of Play

- J-1 Methods for Suspending and Resuming Play
- J-2 Removal of Temporary Water





Pace of Play Policies

- K-1 Maximum Time for All or Part of Round
- K-2 Hole-by-Hole and Shot-by-Shot Pace of Play Policy
- K-3 Modified Pace of Play Penalty Structure

Scorecard Responsibilities

- L-1  Modification of Penalty Under Rule 3.3b(2) for Missing Player or Marker Certification
- L-2  Making Player Responsible for Handicap on Scorecard

Model Local Rules for Players With Disabilities

- M-1  Placing the Ball for Players Using Wheeled Mobility Devices
- M-2  Free Relief from Specified Bunkers for Players Using Wheeled Mobility Devices
- M-3  Limited Exemption from Rule 10.1b (Anchoring the Club) for Players with Ataxia or Athetosis
- M-4  Limited Relief for Ball in Bunker for Players Using Wheeled Mobility Device.

Model Local Rules **REMOVED** from 2019 Rules of Golf

- A-3** Out of Bounds When Public Road Runs Through Course
[Combined with Model Local Rule A-2]
- F-9.2** Relief from Tree Roots in or Close to Fairway
[Combined with Model Local Rule F-9.1]
- K-3** Hole-by-Hole and Shot-by-Shot Pace of Play Policy for Stableford
[Withdrawn on basis of revised application of penalties in Rule 21.1c]
- K-4** Hole-by-Hole and Shot-by-Shot Pace of Play Policy for Par/Bogey Competitions
[Withdrawn on basis of revised application of penalties in Rule 21.3c]

Section 8L Unauthorised Local Rules

Information now incorporated into an updated introductory section to Section 8.

