

**LOCAL RULES and TERMS OF COMPETITION**

The following Local Rules and Terms of Competition, together with any additions or amendments published by England Golf at the golf course, will apply to all England Golf Championships, and should be read in conjunction with the Terms of the Competition of each individual Championship. The word 'Championships' includes all England Golf events e.g. 'Tournaments', 'Finals' and 'Competitions'.

For the full text of any Local Rule reference below, please refer to the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf effective January 2019. These Local Rules replace any Local Rules published by a host club (e.g. on a club's score card).

Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule is the General Penalty.

**1. Out of Bounds (Rule 18.2)**

- i) Beyond any wall, fence, hedge or line of white stakes defining the boundary of the course.
- ii) On or beyond any white line defining the boundary of the course.

**2. Penalty Areas (Rule 17)**

- i) Red penalty areas are defined by red stakes or red lines.
- ii) Yellow penalty areas are defined by yellow stakes or yellow lines.

Note:

- a) When both stakes and lines are used, the edge of the penalty area is defined by the outside edge of the line and the stakes show where the penalty area is.
- b) The part of a bridge that crosses a penalty area is in the penalty area.

**3. Abnormal Course Conditions, including Immovable Obstructions (Rule 16)****3.1 Ground Under Repair**

- i) Any area bounded by a white line.
- ii) Any area of damaged ground that is considered by a referee to be abnormal.
- iii) Seams of cut turf: Model Local Rule F-7 is in effect but interference does not exist if the seam only interferes with the player's stance.
- iv) Stone-filled drainage ditches or channels.

**3.2 Immovable Obstructions**

- i) All artificially surfaced roads and paths on the course, including those covered with wood chips. Individual pieces of woodchip are loose impediments.
- ii) White lined areas and the immovable obstruction they tie into are treated as a single abnormal course condition.

**3.3 Embedded Ball**

Rule 16.3 is modified in this way: Free relief is not allowed when a ball is embedded in stacked turf faces or soil faces above bunkers.

**4. Immovable Obstructions Close to Putting Greens (e.g. Sprinkler Heads)**

Model Local Rule F-5 is in effect: In addition to the types of interference described in Rule 16.1a, when a ball lies in the general area, interference also exists if an immovable obstruction is: on the player's line of play, is within two club-lengths of the putting green, and is within two club-lengths of the ball. The player may take relief under Rule 16.1b. (Exception – There is no relief under this Local Rule if the player chooses a line of play that is clearly unreasonable.)

**5. Integral Objects**

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

- i) Artificial bunker faces.
- ii) Bunker liners in their intended position.

**6. Temporary Immovable Obstructions**

Model Local Rule F-23 is in effect: TIOs include on-course scoreboards plus any other additions or amendments in the additional Local Rules published by England Golf at the Championship.

**7. Ball Deflected by Power Line**

Model Local Rule E-11 is in effect for a ball that hits an overhead power line or cable (the stroke must be cancelled and replayed, see Rule 14.6).

**8. Protection of Young Trees**

Young trees identified by wrapping, stakes or otherwise protected are no play zones:

- i) If a player's ball lies anywhere on the course other than in a penalty area and it lies on or touches such a tree or such a tree interferes with the player's stance or area of intended swing, the player must take relief under Rule 16.1f.
- ii) 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, the player must take relief either with penalty under Rule 17.1e or with free relief under Rule 17.1e(2).

**9. Practice (Rule 5.2)**

- i) In Stroke Play, Rule 5.2b is modified in this way: A player must not practise on the competition course before or between rounds.
- ii) In Match Play, Rule 5.2a is modified in this way: A player must not practise on the competition course before or between rounds.

Exception:

- a) Team members not playing in a series of matches at county finals may practise on the competition course.
- b) All recognised practice areas within the bounds of the course may be used by players for practise on any day of a competition.

Penalty for breach of Local Rule: see Rule 5.2

**10. Use of Equipment (Rule 4.3)**

Rule 4.3a(4) is modified in this way: During a round, a player must not listen to music on a personal audio or video device.

Penalty for breach of Local Rule: see Rule 4.3

**11. Clubs and Ball**

- i) List of Conforming Driver Heads: Model Local Rule G-1 is in effect, except for all handicap events.
- ii) Groove and Punch Mark Specifications: Model Local Rule G-2 is in effect, except for all handicap events.
- ii) List of Conforming Balls: Model Local Rule G-3 is in effect.

Penalty for breach of Local Rule: Disqualification.

**12. Pace of Play (Rule 5.6)**

Each hole is given a maximum completion time, primarily based upon its length and difficulty. The maximum time allotted for the competition of 18 holes will be available prior to play from the Championship Office. Please ensure you read the Pace of Play Policy carefully before playing. The Pace of Play Policy will be strictly enforced.

**PENALTY FOR BREACH OF POLICY:**

**Stroke Play**

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 1 Bad Time  | One Stroke Penalty                             |
|             | Stableford: Deduct 1 Point from Total          |
| 2 Bad Times | Additional Two Penalty Strokes                 |
|             | Stableford: Deduct 2 further Points from Total |
| 3 Bad Times | Disqualification                               |
|             | Stableford: Disqualification                   |

### **Match Play**

1 Bad Time	One Stroke Penalty
2 Bad Times	Loss of Hole
3 Bad Times	Disqualification

### **13. Suspension of Play (Rule 5.7)**

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

- i) Immediate stop for imminent danger: one prolonged note of a siren (Play must be discontinued immediately)
- ii) Stop for a non-dangerous situation: three consecutive notes of a siren
- iii) Resumption of play: two consecutive notes of a siren (Players must then, but not before then, resume play)

Penalty for breach of Local Rule: Disqualification.

Note:

- a) Players will be informed by England Golf Officials when play will resume.
- b) Players will be given sufficient time to reach the place where they were on the course before play was suspended.
- c) When play is stopped for imminent danger, all practice areas will be immediately closed.

### **14. Standards of Player Conduct (Rule 1.2)**

Players are required to comply with the England Golf Code of Conduct in the Championship or Match they are competing in. The policy is available to view in the Championship Office or via the England Golf website.

#### **PENALTY FOR BREACH OF POLICY:**

First breach of Code of Conduct	Warning or Committee Sanction
Second breach	General Penalty
Subsequent breach or any serious misconduct	Disqualification

### **15. Transportation**

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.

Penalty for breach of Local Rule: The player gets the general penalty for each hole during which there is a breach of this Local Rule.

If the breach occurs between the play of two holes, it applies to the next hole.

Note: See also England Golf's Transportation Policy ([www.EnglandGolf.org](http://www.EnglandGolf.org)), which includes provisions for people with disabilities.

### **16. Caddies**

There are no restrictions on the use of caddies, except in the following Championships when Rule 10.3a is modified in this way:

- i) in under 16 Championships, a player must not have a caddie during the round.
- ii) in under 18 Championships, when either caddies are not allowed or they must be under 18 on 1<sup>st</sup> January of the year in which the Championship is being played.

Penalty for breach of Local Rule: See Model Local Rule H-1.1 & H-1.2

### **17. Appointment of Advice Giver in Team Competition**

- i) Each team may name one advice giver (in addition to the persons from whom advice may be asked under Rule 10), whom players on 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 or her round.
- ii) The team may change its advice giver during the round, but must tell the Committee when doing so.
- iii) The advice giver may not:
  - a) deliberately stand in a location on or close to an extension of the line of play in order to assist the player.
  - b) point out a line of play or walk on the putting green when the ball of a team player lies on the putting green.

Penalty for breach of Local Rule:  
First offence           Warning  
Second offence       General Penalty

**18. Returning Score Card**

A player's score card is deemed officially returned to the Committee when the player has left the recording office/area.

Note: Players must promptly return their score cards to the Championship Office.

**19. Result of a Match or Championship**

- i) Match play: The result of a match is officially announced when it has been recorded in the Championship Office.
- ii) Stroke play: The results of the competition are deemed officially announced and the competition is closed when the Trophy is presented to the winner.