



## 2023 LOCAL RULES and TERMS OF COMPETITION HARD CARD

January 2023

The following local rules and terms of competition have been formulated after consultation with the European Tour and the Rules of Golf Committee of R&A Rules Limited and apply to all French Tour events.

Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a local rule is the General Penalty.

Match Play – Loss of Hole

Stroke Play – Two strokes.

### 1. Out of Bounds. Rule 18.2.

- a) A ball is out of bounds when it is beyond any wall defining a boundary.
- b) A ball that comes to rest beyond any road defining out of bounds, is out of bounds, even though it may come to rest on another part of the course. Model Local Rule A-5 is in effect.
- c) 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. But 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) Opposite Side Same Distance Relief for Red Penalty Areas.

The weekly local rules sheet will specify (if any) red penalty areas have a same distance option on the opposite side. Model local rule B-2.2 will apply only to the penalty areas that are listed.

#### b) Opposite Side Relief Where Ball Last Crossed Edge of Penalty Area Where the Edge and the Boundary of the Course Coincide.

When a player's ball last crosses the edge of a penalty area where the edge of the penalty area and a boundary of the course coincide, that edge is deemed red and opposite site relief is available under model local rule B-2.2.

#### c) Dropping Zones for Penalty Areas.

Where a dropping zone is marked for a penalty area, labelled DZ, it is an additional option under penalty of one stroke. The dropping zone is a relief area under rule 14.3. meaning a ball must be dropped in and come to rest in the relief area.

### 3. Abnormal Course Conditions. Rule 16.1.b

#### A. Ground Under Repair

- (1) All areas bounded by white lines including spectator crossing points where marked.
- (2) Seams of Cut Turf: Model Local Rule F-7 is in effect.
- (3) Grass covered cable trenches
- (4) French drains (stone-filled drainage ditches).
- (5) A hole made by a movable obstruction (microphones, stakes, signs, tripods, chairs, etc) may be treated as ground under repair by the Committee but there is no relief for stance.

#### Restriction on Relief from Stance in Animal Hole.

Rule 16.1. is modified in this way:

"Interference does not exist if the animal hole interferes with the player's stance."

#### Yardage Spots or Lines.

Painted lines or dots in a part of general area cut to fairway height or less are to be treated as ground under repair from which relief is allowed under Rule 16.1.

But interference does not exist if painted lines or dots interfere with only the player's stance.

#### Restriction on Relief from Stance for Irrigation Pipes.

Rule 16.1. is modified in this way:

"Interference does not exist if an irrigation pipe(s) interferes with the player's stance."

### 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 surrounded by an immovable obstruction are treated as a single abnormal course condition.
- (3) Mats that are secured and all ramps covering cables (anything which is secured or fastened is not considered "readily movable" if it must be unfastened to be moved).
- (4) Roads and paths surfaced with woodchip or mulch. Individual pieces of woodchip are loose impediments.
- (5) Non-permanent bridges erected for players or spectators unless otherwise defined.
- (6) The part of wires or temporary cables located outside penalty areas when they are fixing positions for those floating sponsor boards located within the penalty area and cannot be moved.
- (7) Staked trees are immovable obstructions.

### C. Removal of Temporary Water

Model Local Rule J-2 is in effect and is modified as follows: When temporary water accumulates on the putting green, relief is available under Rule 16.1d or:

- i the putting green may be squeegeed between groups
- ii the player may have his line of play on the putting green squeegeed
- iii only when authorised by the Committee, the player may have the putting green squeegeed when a ball lies adjacent to the putting green in any area of the course.

### D. Embedded Ball

Model Local Rule F-2.2 is in effect and Rule 16.3 is modified as follows:

Free relief is not allowed when a ball is embedded in a stacked turf face above a bunker.

### 4. Immovable Obstructions Close to Putting Greens.

Model Local Rule F-5 is in effect:

For a ball in the general area, relief may be taken under Rule 16.1b if (i) an immovable obstruction is on the line of play and is on or within two club-lengths of the putting green and within two club-lengths of the ball, and (ii) both the ball and the obstruction lie in an area cut to fairway height or less.

### 5. Green Reading Material Restrictions

Model Local Rule G-11 is in effect. Only Committee approved materials must be used. Approved materials include:

- (1) Committee approved yardage books from 2022 onwards. Note: this does not apply to amateurs playing solely in Pro-Am competitions.
- (2) Committee approved pin positions sheets
- (3) Map of the competition course no larger than an A4 sized piece of paper.

### 6. Integral Objects.

- a) Bunker liners in their intended position.
- 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 penalty areas.
- d) Artificial retaining walls and/or pilings when located on the edge of bunkers. These are part of the general area.
- e) Floating sponsor displays/boards in penalty areas (no line-of-sight relief allowed). Wires or cables anchoring them are temporary cables. NOTE: When cables are located outside the penalty area, the cables are immovable obstructions.

### 7. Permanent Overhead Power Line.

Model Local Rule E-11 is in effect but only if it is known or virtually certain that a player's ball strikes a power line located in bounds and not the supporting pole/pylon. The player must replay the stroke (see Rule 14.6).

### 8. Temporary Immovable Obstructions. (TIO)

Model Local Rule F-22 re Temporary Power Lines and Cables and Model Local Rule F-23 re TIO's are in effect.

- a) Dropping Zone (DZ) Policy. In the general area, when a player's ball lies in or on a TIO or so close to the TIO that it interferes with the stance or area of intended swing and relief is required, the player may:
  - proceed under any of the option allowed under the TIO local rule or Rule 16.1 or,
  - if dropping zones have been marked, as an additional option, the player may drop the original ball or another ball, without penalty, in the nearest dropping zone. This is true even if it is nearer the hole.
  - The "DZ" is a relief area under Rule 14.3 meaning a ball must be dropped in and come to rest in the dropping zone.
- b) Either Side Relief. The weekly local rules sheet will specify which TIO have an either side option. Either side relief is restricted to **line-of-sight relief only**. NOTE: This does not apply when the player chooses to operate under Rule 16.1 for relief.

Either side relief is available as an extra option for line-of-sight interference from:

- Flightscope TV Poles, all TV Towers & Leaderboards when they stand alone.
- (c) Drones: If it is known or virtually certain that a player's ball hits a drone in flight and in bounds, the player must replay the stroke by playing the original ball or another ball from the spot where that stroke was made (see Rule 14.6). Note: If the player replays the stroke but does so from a wrong place, he gets the general penalty and the stroke counts, but the player has not played from a wrong place.

### 9. Clubs and Balls.

- a) List of Confirming Driver Heads: Model Local Rule G-1 is in effect. Penalty for making a stroke with a club in breach of this 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 this local rule: Disqualification.

c) List of Conforming Balls: Model Local Rule G-3 is in effect. Penalty for making a stroke in breach of this local rule: Disqualification.

d) One Ball Rule: Model Local Rule G-4 is in effect. (Exception: This local rule 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). Penalty for making a stroke at a ball in breach of this local rule: the player gets one penalty stroke for each hole during which he is in breach of this Local Rule.

e) Replacing Club that is Broken or Significantly Damaged: Model Local Rule G-9 for replacement of a club is in effect.

f) 46-inch Club Length Limitation: Model Local Rule G-10 is in effect. This is also in effect in a Pro-Am played as the official competition. Exception: This rule will not apply to amateurs playing solely in Pro-Am competitions.

#### 10. Stopping Play; Resume Play. Rule 5.7.

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

- Immediate Stop/dangerous situation – one prolonged note of the siren.
- Normal non-dangerous stop – three consecutive short notes of the siren;
- Resume play – two consecutive short notes of the siren.
- When play is stopped in a dangerous situation, all practice areas are immediately closed.

#### 11. Practice. Rule 5

a) Before or between rounds in Stroke Play. – Model Local Rule I-1.1 is in effect. Rule 5.2b. is modified as follows: A player must not practise on the competition course but may practise on the designated practice areas.

b) Between the play of two holes – Model Local Rule I-2 is in effect. Rule 5.5b is modified as follows: A player must not make any practice stroke on or near the putting green of the hole just completed or test the surface of that putting green by rubbing the putting green or rolling a ball.

#### 12. Distance Measuring Devices. Rule 4.3a.

Model Local Rule 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 during any ranking tournament. This is also in effect in a Pro-am played as the official competition.

Penalty for breach of Rule 4.3.: See penalty statement in Rule 4.3.

#### 13. Transportation.

Model Local Rule G-6 is in effect:

During a round, a player or caddie must not ride on any form of motorised transportation except as authorised or later approved by the rules committee.

**NOTE:** A player taking a stroke and distance penalty is always authorised.

Penalty for breach of this 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.

#### 14. Scoring in Stroke Play.

Model Local Rule L-1 applies. Rule 3.3b(2) is modified in this way:

If a player returns a scorecard without the hole scores being certified either by the player, the marker or both, the player gets the General Penalty (two penalty strokes). The penalty applies to the last hole of the player's round.

#### 15. Starting Round and Pace of Play Policy. Rule 5.3a and Rule 5.6b(3)

a) The official starting time is displayed on the clock at the starting tee.

b) The 2023 French Tour Pace of Play Policy as defined within Regulation E-13 in the Members' Regulation handbook is in force. Fines for multiple "Timing Sessions", "Bad Times" or "Excessive Shot Times" in an Official Season are detailed within this Regulation. **Additionally**, the following Penalties apply:

Penalty for Breach of Pace of Play Policy in Stroke Play:

1<sup>st</sup> bad time in the Tournament – Verbal warning from a Referee

2<sup>nd</sup> bad time in the Tournament – 1 stroke penalty

3<sup>rd</sup> bad time in the Tournament – 2 strokes

4<sup>th</sup> bad time in the Tournament – Disqualification.

For tournaments in match play, the penalties for breach of pace of play will be defined on the local rules sheet.

### TERMS OF COMPETITION

#### 16. Deciding Ties.

Unless otherwise stated, if there is a tie for the first place, there will be a hole-by-hole play-off to determine the winner.

#### 17. Recording Area and Scorecard Returned.

The location of the recording area will be detailed each week on the local rule sheet. The scorecard (paper or digital) is returned when the player leaves the recording area with both feet. Score recorders are part of "The Committee".

#### 18. When the Result of the Competition is Final.

The competition is final when the official results have been validated in the scoring system by the Score Recorder and approved by the Committee.

#### 19. Anti-Doping.

Players are required to comply with and be bound by the French Tour's Anti-Doping Policy (included in the Member's Handbook).

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 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.

#### 23. Metal Fencing.

a) If a player has interference from metal fencing, Rule 16.1. will apply. In this specific case, the player must determine the nearest point of complete relief without crossing over, through or under the fencing. A

player who takes relief under this clause is not entitled to proceed under clause (b) of this local rule:

- b) As an additional option, relief is allowed when all the following are true:
- the ball lies in the general area,
  - it lies on the outside of the fencing but within four club-lengths of it and,
  - the fencing intervenes directly between the player's ball and the hole, or the ball lies within one club-length of a spot at the same distance from the hole where such intervention would exist.

The player may take free relief by dropping the original ball or another ball in this relief area (see Rule 14.3).

- Reference Point: The nearest point of complete relief in the general area which is inside the metal fencing.
- Size of Relief Area Measured from Reference Point: one club-length but with these limits:
- Limits on Location of Relief Area:
  - must be in the general area
  - must not be nearer the hole than the reference point and
  - there must be complete relief from all interference by the metal fencing.

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 15.2. applies.
- (3) A player may not obtain relief under this local rule if:
  - Interference by anything other than the metal fencing makes the stroke clearly unreasonable or,
  - Interference by metal fencing would occur only using a clearly unreasonable stroke or an unnecessarily abnormal stance, swing, or direction of play.

#### ***Temporary Immovable Obstructions - Definitions***

*Examples include but are not limited to Flightscope fixed TV poles, all fixed clocks, advertising boards fixed to other temporary immovable obstructions or advertising boards and hole number distance indicators that are **situated around teeing areas.***

#### ***Movable Obstructions - Definitions***

*Examples include but are not limited to free-standing advertising boards **situated away from teeing areas**, drinks dispensers that are on wheels or easily lifted, all cameras and their tripods, TV microphones, free standing scoring and data masts or tripod and all crossing point indicators.*