

2023 LPGA TOUR & EPSON TOUR RULES OF PLAY

Play is governed by the Rules of Golf as approved by the United States Golf Association and R&A Rules Limited and, where applicable, by the following Local Rules, and Terms of the Competition, subject to changes for particular tournaments by the Rules Committee on the applicable Notice to Players. The following Local Rules apply and can be found in the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf, effective January 1, 2023. Unless otherwise specified, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule is the general penalty.

SECTION 1- LOCAL RULES

1. USE OF SPECIFIC EQUIPMENT:

- a. **DRIVER HEADS:** List of Conforming Driver Heads: Model Local Rule G-1 is in effect. Penalty for Breach – Disqualification.
- b. **GROOVE AND PUNCH MARK SPECIFICATIONS:** Model Local Rule G-2 is in effect. Penalty for Breach – Disqualification.
- c. **GOLF BALLS:** List of Conforming Golf Balls: Model Local Rule G-3 is in effect. Penalty for Breach – Disqualification.
- d. **TRANSPORTATION:** Model Local Rule G-6 is in effect. Rule 4.3a is modified as follows: During a round, a player or caddie must not ride on any form of motorized transportation, except when authorized or later approved by the Rules Committee. A player operating under a stroke and distance penalty is always authorized.
- e. **PROHIBITING CERTAIN TYPES OF SHOES:** Model Local Rule G-7 is in effect. Penalty for breach of Local Rule: First Breach – General Penalty. Second Breach – Disqualification.
- f. **REPLACEMENT OF A CLUB THAT IS BROKEN OR SIGNIFICANTLY DAMAGED:** Model Local Rule G-9 is in effect.
- g. **PROHIBITING CLUBS LONGER THAN 46 INCHES:** Model Local Rule G-10 is in effect. Penalty for Breach – Disqualification.
- h. **GREEN-READING MATERIALS RESTRICTIONS:** Model Local Rule G-11 is in effect. Approved materials include: Committee approved yardage book, Committee approved hole location sheets, and a map of the entire course no larger than letter or A4 sized paper. First Breach – General Penalty. Second Breach – Disqualification.

2. **OUT OF BOUNDS:** Rule 18.2. Defined by course-side points of white stakes, perimeter fence posts/fencing/walls at ground level, course-side edge of roadways/curbings, and white lines tying into any boundary. A ball that crosses any 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. Closed gates attached to a boundary are part of the boundary object under Model Local Rule F-26.

3. **PENALTY AREAS:** Rule 17. Red penalty areas with an opposite side relief option will be indicated on the applicable “Notice to Players” with Model Local Rule B-2.1. **Note:** When the edge of a red penalty area coincides with the boundary of the course, Model Local Rule B-2.2 is in effect.

4. ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITIONS:

- a. White and/or green-lined areas (except dropping zones);
- b. French drains (trenches filled with rocks or stones);
- c. Newly trenched areas, even if not marked;
- d. Seams of cut turf, for lie of ball or area of intended swing ONLY. All seams within the area of cut turf are treated as the same seam in taking relief under Rule 16.1b. Model Local Rule F-7 is in effect;
- e. Painted lines or dots on the putting green or in a part of the 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 (for example, yardage, putting green reference dots, driving distance markings, etc.) for lie of ball or area of intended swing ONLY. Model Local Rule F-21.1 is in effect;
- f. White-lined areas of ground under repair and the roads or paths they tie into are treated as a single abnormal course condition when taking relief under Rule 16.1. Model Local Rule F-3.1 is in effect;
- g. Damage, including the hole, made by a movable obstruction (microphones, stakes, signs, tripods, tables, chairs, etc.) may be treated as ground under repair by the Committee (but no relief for stance);
- h. Landscaped or garden areas completely encircled by an obstruction. Model Local Rule F-3.3 is in effect.

5. INTEGRAL OBJECTS:

- a. Retaining walls and pilings when located within penalty areas;
- b. The portion closely attached to trees of tree wrappings, electrical wires, cables, television equipment, antennae and lightning rods;
- c. Bunker liners. Note: An exposed liner may be treated as GUR by the Committee (but no relief for stance).
- d. Sponsor displays located within penalty areas. Lines or cables anchoring them are temporary and Model Local Rule F-22 is in effect.

6. **TEMPORARY WATER ON PUTTING GREEN:** Model Local Rule J-2 is in effect. If temporary water exists on the putting green the Committee may provide relief under Rule 16.1 or:

- a. Squeegee the putting green until the players are near the putting green; or,
- b. Squeegee the line of play when the player’s ball lies on the green; or,
- c. Have the putting green squeegeed when a ball lies adjacent to the putting green in any area of the course, but only when authorized by the Committee.
- d. Any combination of a, b and c above.

7. **IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS CLOSE TO THE PUTTING GREEN:** Model Local Rule F-5.2 is in effect and is modified as follows: For a ball in the general area, relief is allowed only when both the ball and the immovable obstruction lie in an area cut to fairway height or less.

8. **TEMPORARY IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS:** Model Local Rule F-23 is in effect. Either side relief for line of sight interference ONLY: Either side relief is available for all TIOs, unless specified on the “Notice to Players”. If the player has line of sight interference and is entitled to relief, the player may take relief on the other side of the TIO in accordance with e(2) of the Model Local Rule F-23.

9. **PERMANENT ELEVATED POWER LINES:** Model Local Rule E-11 is in effect and is modified as follows: If it is known or virtually certain that a player’s ball hit a power line in bounds, the player must replay the stroke (see Rule 14.6).

10. **TEMPORARY POWER LINES AND CABLES:** Model Local Rule F-22 is in effect.

11. **STOPPING PLAY AND RESUMING PLAY:** Rule 5.7, as modified by Model Local Rule J-1.

- a. **METHODS FOR STOPPING AND RESUMING PLAY:** An **immediate suspension for a dangerous situation** will be signaled by **one prolonged siren or horn blast**. All other types of suspension will be signaled by several, intermittent horn blasts. Resumption of play will be signaled by two short horn blasts. Penalty for breach – **Disqualification**.
- b. **PRACTICE AREAS DURING SUSPENSION:** During a suspension for a dangerous situation, all practice areas will be closed until the Rules Committee has declared them open for use. During other suspensions, practice is permitted on designated practice areas. Refer to the LPGA/Epson Tournament and Player Regulations.

12. PRACTICE BEFORE OR BETWEEN ROUNDS, OR AT PUTTING GREEN OF HOLE JUST COMPLETED PROHIBITED:

- a. Before or Between Rounds in Stroke Play: Model Local Rule I-1.1 is in effect. A player may practice on designated practice areas. Rule 5.2b is modified as follows. Players must not practice on the competition course before or between rounds.
- b. Practice Between Two Holes: Model Local Rule I-2 is in effect. Rule 5.5b is modified as follows: Between 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.

13. **PACE OF PLAY:** Rule 5.6b, Prompt Pace of Play as modified by Model Local Rule K-2 and further by the LPGA/Epson Pace of Play Policy, which is posted at all tournaments.

14. **DEFINING EDGES OF PUTTING GREENS/AREAS CUT TO FAIRWAY HEIGHT OR LESS/BUNKERS:** If necessary, green or blue paint will be used. The dots/line is considered on the putting green, on the area cut to fairway height or less, or in the bunker.

15. **SCORING IN STROKE PLAY:** Model Local Rule L-1 is in effect and modifies the penalty for a missing signature(s) under Rule 3.3b(2).

SECTION 2- TERMS OF COMPETITION

16. **TIME OF STARTING:** A player is at her starting point when she is within the roped/painted area of her starting tee, including the starter’s tent. When both paint and ropes are

present, paint defines the starting area.

17. RETURNING SCORECARD: Rule 3.3b. A player has returned her scorecard to the Committee when she completely leaves the roped/painted area of the scoring tent, unless otherwise specified on the "Notice to Players". When both paint and ropes are present, paint defines the scoring area.

18. WHEN COMPETITION IS FINAL: The competition is final when it has been electronically closed by the Rules Committee on the tournament software program.

**LPGA TOUR & EPSON TOUR
RULES COMMITTEE**

STACEY COLLINS

IAN DAVIS

ROBERT DUKE

BRIAN FAHEY

ANNIE GIANGROSSO

KYLE JACOBS

MISSY JONES

LAURIN KRÖSBACHER

BEN LARSON

MITCH MOON

RYAN PALMER

KELLY WERGIN

RICK WILSON

SUE WITTERS

KYLE WOLFE