

WESTERN PROVINCE GOLF
TOURNAMENT PERMANENT LOCAL RULES (“HARD CARD”)

With effect from 1 January 2025

The following Tournament Local Rules (hereinafter referred to as the “WP Golf Hard”), together with any additions or amendments published by WP Golf pertaining to the host golf course, will apply to all Tournaments administered by Western Province Golf (WPG).

In the event of a dispute arising as to the meaning of any Rule of Golf, the rule will be interpreted according to the English Edition of The Rules of Golf. For the full text of any Local Rule referenced below, please refer to the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf effective January 2024.

Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule is the General Penalty. (Loss of hole in match play or two penalty strokes in stroke play)

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

- a) A ball is out of bounds when it is beyond any wall, fence or white stakes defining a boundary edge of a course, on or beyond any white line defining the boundary edge of the course. The line itself is out of bounds.
- b) A ball that crosses a road which is defined as out of bounds and comes to rest on the road or on the other side of that road is out of bounds. This is true even if the ball comes to rest on another part of the course that is in bounds for other holes.
- c) In the case of there being two boundary fences, the inner most fence shall define the boundary.

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

- a) **Opposite side, same distance relief for red penalty areas**
Relief under Model Local Rule B-2.1 will apply only when the Tournament’s Additional Local Rules specify which (if any) red penalty areas have a same distance option on the opposite side.
- b) **Opposite side relief where ball last crossed edge of penalty area where the edge and the course boundary coincide**
When a player’s ball last crosses the edge of a penalty area where the edge of the penalty area and the boundary coincide, that edge is deemed red and opposite side relief is available under Model Local Rule B-2.1.
- c) **Dropping Zones for Penalty Areas**
Where a dropping zone is marked for a penalty area, it is an additional option for relief 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. **Dropping Zones** (Model Local Rule E-1)

Where a dropping zone is marked for an abnormal course condition (Rule 16.1) or unplayable ball (Rule 19.2 & 3) a ball may be played under the applicable rule or dropped in the dropping zone as an additional relief option. 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.

4. **Abnormal Course Conditions (Including Immovable Obstructions)** (Rule 16)

a) **Ground Under Repair**

1. Any area bounded by a white line, including spectator crossing points where marked.
2. Any area of damaged ground that is considered by a referee to be abnormal.
3. Grass covered cable trenches.
4. French drains (stone-filled drainage ditches).
5. Seams of cut turf; Model Local Rule F-7 is in effect.
6. Yardage 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 available under Rule

16.1. Interference does not exist if yardage painted lines or dots only interfere with the players stance.

- b) **Restriction on Relief from Stance for certain, not all, animal holes.** (Model Local Rule F-6)
Rule 16.1a(1) is modified in this way: "Interference does not exist if a mole run or guinea fowl scratchings only interferes with the player's stance."
- c) **Immovable Obstructions**
1. White lined areas and the immovable obstruction they tie into are treated as a single abnormal course condition.
 2. Flowerbeds/gardens surrounded by immovable obstructions are treated as a single abnormal course condition.
 3. All artificially surfaced roads or paths, including when surfaced with woodchip or mulch. (Individual pieces of woodchip are loose impediments which may be removed.)
- d) **Embedded Ball** (Model Local Rule F-2)
Rule 16.3 is modified in this way: "No free relief is allowed for a ball embedded in the stacked turf face above a bunker."
5. **Immovable Obstructions Close to Putting Greens**
Model Local Rule F-5 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.
6. **Integral Objects**
The following are integral objects from which free relief is not allowed:
- 1) Bunker liners in their intended position.
 - 2) Artificial retaining walls and pilings when located in penalty areas.
 - 3) Wires, cable, wrappings or other objects where they are closely attached to trees or other permanent objects.
 - 4) Any closed gate attached to a boundary object
7. **Prohibiting use of materials to help read the Line of Play on the Putting Green** (Model Local Rule G-12) is in effect. Rule 4.3a is modified in this way: during a round, a player must not use any written, printed, electronic or digital materials to help with reading their line of play for any stroke to be made from the putting green.
8. **Players may remove Animals not defined as Loose Impediments from near ball** (Model Local Rule E-13) is in effect. A player may remove an animal, other than those defined as a loose impediment, that is touching or near their ball without penalty and may do so in any way.
9. **Suspension Of Play** (Rule 5.7)
The following signals will be used to suspend and resume play:
- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Immediate stop for imminent danger | - One prolonged note of a siren |
| Stop for a non-dangerous situation | - Three consecutive notes of a siren |
| Resumption of play | - Two consecutive notes of a siren |
- Note:** When play is stopped for imminent danger, all practice areas will be immediately closed.
10. **Practise** (Rule 5.2)
All recognised practice areas within the bounds of the course may be used by players for practise on any day of the competition.
- a) **Stroke Play**, Rule 5.2b is modified in this way: "A player must not practise on the competition course before or between rounds."
Practice on or near the previous putting green is prohibited. Rule 5.5b is modified in this way: "Between the play of two holes a player must not make any practise 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."
- b) **Match Play**, Rule 5.2a is modified in this way: "A player must not practise on the competition course before or between rounds."

11. **Returning of Score Card**

A player's scorecard is officially returned to the Committee when the player has left the recording office/area with both feet.

12. **Player Conduct and Spirit of The Game**

- a) It is one of the central principles of the game of golf that all players are expected to play by the Rules and in the spirit of the game.
- b) Under Rule 1.2a, a committee may disqualify a player for serious misconduct for acting contrary to the spirit of the game. This applies whether there is a Code of Conduct in place for a competition or not.

Examples of actions, amongst others listed in the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf (Clarification 1.2a/1)

Penalties

First breach	- warning or Committee sanction
Second breach	- one-stroke penalty
Third breach	- general penalty
Fourth breach or any serious misconduct	- disqualification

13. **Banners & Signage**

These are to be treated as movable obstructions. (Rule 15.2). If the obstruction cannot be easily moved, its status changes to a Temporary Immovable Obstructions and (Model Local Rule F-23) applies.

14. **Clubs and Balls**

- a) List of Conforming Driver Heads: Model Local Rule G-1 is in effect. Penalty for making a stroke with a club in breach of 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 Local Rule: Disqualification.
- c) List of Conforming Golf Balls: Model Local Rule G-3 is in effect. Penalty for breach of the Local Rule: Disqualification.

Note: An updated List of Conforming Clubs and Balls is available on www.randa.org.

15. **Audio and Video Devices** (Model Local Rule G-8)

Rule 4.3a(4) is modified in this way: "During a round, a player must not listen to or watch content of any nature on a personal audio or video device."

16. **Transportation** (Model Local Rule G-6)

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, or if the Terms of Entry allows transport. A player who will play, or has played, under penalty of stroke and distance is always authorized to ride on motorized transportation.

Penalty: The player gets the general penalty for each hole during which there is a breach. A breach between two holes applies to the next hole.

The following applies to WPG Competitions:

Pace Of Play (Rule 5.6)

In match play, the players may agree that one of them will play out of turn to save time (Rule 6.4a).

In stroke play, players may play “Ready Golf” in a safe and responsible way (Rule 6.4b – exception)

Pace of play procedure

Each hole has been given a maximum completion time based upon the length and difficulty of the hole. The maximum time allotted for the completion of 18 holes will be available prior to play from the Tournament officials. The Pace of Play Policy will be strictly enforced.

In the absence of mitigating circumstances, a group will be timed if it is in excess of the pace of play time allowed and “out of position”.

“Out of position” is defined as more than a starting interval behind the group in front.

From commencement of timing, if the first player to play exceeds 50 seconds, or 40 seconds if it is the second or third player to play, the player would be deemed to have a “bad time”.

A player’s 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.

Penalties for breach of policy

1 Bad Time Verbal warning from referee and told that if the player has a further bad time they will be penalized as follows:

	Stroke Play	Match Play
2 Bad Times	One Stroke Penalty	One Stroke Penalty
3 Bad Times	Additional Two Penalty Strokes	Loss of Hole
4 Bad Times	Disqualification	Disqualification