

2017 WALES GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS AND MATCHES HARD CARD

A: LOCAL RULES

The following Local Rules, together with any additions or amendments, as published by Wales Golf at the golf course, will apply to all Championships and International Matches run by Wales Golf

1. OUT OF BOUNDS (Rule 27-1)

- a) Beyond any wall, hedge, fence or line of white stakes defining the boundary of the course.
- b) On or beyond any white line defining the boundary of the course.
(A ball is out of bounds when **all** of it lies on or beyond such a line)

Note:

- a) Where out of bounds is defined by white stakes or a fence, the line joining the nearest inside points at ground level of such stakes or any inside fence posts (excluding angled supports) defines the boundary.
A ball is out of bounds when **all** of it lies on or over such a line.
- b) A ball in or beyond any ditch defining the boundary of the course is out of bounds.
- c) Objects defining out of bounds are **not** obstructions; therefore relief without penalty from them is not available.

2. WATER HAZARDS (including Lateral Water Hazards) (Rule 26)

Water Hazards are defined by yellow stakes and/or yellow lines.

Lateral Water Hazards are defined by red stakes and/or red lines.

When both stakes and lines are in existence, stakes identify the hazard and lines define the margin.

Note:

- a) A ball is in a water hazard when it lies in or any part of it touches the water hazard, including any stake or line
- b) Stakes defining the margin of a water hazard are obstructions.
- c) Relief without penalty is not available from immovable obstructions or abnormal ground conditions when the ball is in a water hazard. (rule 24-2/25-1)
- d) Retaining artificial walls and pilings surrounding/bordering water hazards are immovable obstructions.

3. GROUND UNDER REPAIR (Rule 25-1)

- a) All areas bounded by white lines.
- b) All areas indicated by blue stakes and / or GUR notices.
- c) Any area of damaged ground that is considered by a Rules Official to be abnormal.

4. IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS (Rule 24-2)

- a) All artificially surfaced roads and paths on the course, including wooded edge boards, are immovable obstructions.
- b) All other roads and paths are integral parts of the course. The ball must be played as it lies or declared unplayable (Rule 28).
- c) Stone filled drainage ditches or channels
- d) White lined areas adjoining any areas defined as immovable obstructions are to be considered as part of the obstruction and are not ground under repair.

5. PROTECTION OF YOUNG TREES

Young trees are identified by stakes, collars or tubes. If such a tree interferes with a player's stance or the area of his intended swing, the ball **must** be lifted, without penalty, and dropped in accordance with the procedure prescribed in Rule 24-2b.

6. STONES IN BUNKERS (Rule 24-1)

Stones in bunkers are movable obstructions.

7. BALL ACCIDENTALLY MOVED ON THE PUTTING GREEN (Rules 18-2, 18-3 & 20-1)

When a player's ball lies on the putting green, there is no penalty if the ball or ball-marker is accidentally moved by the player, his partner, his opponent, or any of their caddies or equipment. The moved ball or ball-marker must be replaced as provided in Rules 18-2, 18-3 or 20-1. This only applies when the player's ball or ball-marker lies on the putting green and any movement is accidental.

Note: If it is determined that a player's ball on the putting green was moved as a result of wind, water or some other natural cause such as the effects of gravity, the ball must be played as it lies from its new location. A ball-marker moved in such circumstances is replaced.

8. IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS CLOSE TO PUTTING GREEN

The specimen Local Rule (4a) in the Rules of Golf (pages 146-147) is in effect.

9. TEMPORARY IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS (TIOs)

The specimen Local Rule (4b) in the Rules of Golf (pages 147-150) is in effect.

10. WRONG GREENS (Rule 25-3)

Practice putting and/or pitching greens on the course **must** be treated as wrong greens.

11. STACKED BUNKER FACES (Rule 25-2)

The face of a bunker which consists of stacked turf (whether grass covered or earthen), is neither (a) part of the bunker nor (b) a closely mown area.

12. DISTANCE MEASURING DEVICES (Rule 14-3, specimen Local Rule 7 and Appendix IV page 181)

In all Wales Golf Championships and events, a player may obtain distance information by use of a distance-measuring device. If during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance-measuring device to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his play (eg elevation changes, wind speed, etc.), the player is in breach of rule 14-3.

Note: A multi-functional device, such as a smartphone or a PDA may be used as a distance-measuring device, but it must not be used to gauge or measure other conditions where doing so would be a breach of rule 14-3.

Penalty for a breach of Rule 14-3; Match play - Loss of hole, Stroke play - 2 strokes. For subsequent offence Disqualification.

Unless otherwise indicated above or the breach is covered by a Rule of Golf:

Penalty for Breach of Local Rule:

Match play - Loss of hole; Stroke play - Two strokes

B: CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION

The following Conditions, together with any additions or amendments as published by Wales Golf at the golf course or on the relevant entry form, shall apply under Rule 33-1, to all Championships and International Matches (unless otherwise stated below) run by Wales Golf.

1. THE BALL (Note to Rule 5-1)

The ball the player uses must be named on the current List of Conforming Golf Balls issued by The R&A.

Penalty for Breach of Condition – Disqualification

2. CLUBS

a) Driving Clubs

Any driver the player carries must have a clubhead, identified by model and loft, which is named on the current List of Conforming Driver Heads issued by the R & A.

Exception: A driver with a clubhead that was manufactured prior to 1999 is exempt from this condition.

An updated List of Conforming Driver Heads is available on the R & A's website www.randa.org – This list can also be viewed on request in the Wales Golf Championship Office.

b) Groove and Punch Mark Specifications

The player's clubs must conform to the groove and punch mark specifications in the Rules of Golf that are effective from 1 January 2010. NB condition 2b applies only to the Welsh Open Stroke Play Championship, the Welsh Ladies' Open Stroke Play Championship and International Matches run by Wales Golf.

Penalty for breach of condition 2: see the penalty statement in the Rules of Golf page 155.

3. CADDIES

Caddies are not permitted in any Junior Championship.

Penalty for breach of condition 3: see penalty statement in the Rules of Golf page 157

4. PRACTICE

a) Before or between rounds; the provisions of Rule 7-1 apply

Note: All recognised practice areas within the bounds of the course may be used by players for practice on any day of a competition unless otherwise specified at the venue

b) Between holes (Note 2 to Rule 7-2 applies)

For Stroke Play Only: Between the play of two holes a player must not make any practice stroke on or near the putting green of the hole last played and must not test the surface of the putting green last played by rolling a ball.

Penalty for breach of Condition: the player shall incur a penalty of two strokes at the next hole, except that in the case of the last hole of the round, he incurs the penalty at that hole.

5. SUSPENSION OF PLAY DUE TO A DANGEROUS SITUATION (Note to rule 6-8b)

a) The specimen Condition in the Rules of Golf (page 158) applies. When the klaxon sounds due to a dangerous situation play **must** discontinue **immediately**.

Penalty for breach of condition: disqualification

Note:

- i) A suspension of play for a dangerous situation will be signalled by a **prolonged blast** of the klaxon.
- ii) Other suspensions will be signalled **by three short blasts** of the klaxon

b) Resumption of play (Rule 6-8b) will be signalled by two short blasts of the klaxon. Competitors must then resume play.

Penalty for breach of rule – disqualification

Note

- i) Players will be informed by Wales Golf officials that play will resume shortly and will be given sufficient time to reach the place on the course where they were before play was suspended.

6. PACE OF PLAY (Note to Rule 6-7)

a) Time Allowed

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.

b) Definition of Out of Position:

The first group and any group after a starter's gap will be considered to be "out of position" if, at any time during the round, the group's cumulative time exceeds the time allowed for the number of holes completed. Any following group will be considered "out of position" if it is more than the starting interval behind the group in front and has exceeded the time allowed for the number of holes played.

c) Procedure When Group is Out of Position

1. Consideration will be given to groups experiencing difficulties such as, a ball search, rulings, and inclement weather.
2. If a decision is taken to time a group, each player in the group will be subject to individual timing by a referee. Each player in the group will be advised that they are "out of position" and are being timed.

d) Time Allowed for a Stroke

The maximum time allocated per shot is 40 seconds. 10 extra seconds are allowed for the first player to play:

- On a par three hole;
- An approach shot; and
- A chip or putt

The timing will start when a player has had sufficient time to reach his ball, it is his turn to play and he is able to play without interference or distraction.

The time allowed includes any yardage assessment, any walking forwards or backwards and any pre-shot routine, including practice swings.

On the putting green, timing will start when the player has had a reasonable amount of time to lift, clean and replace his ball, repair pitch marks and move loose impediments on his line of putt. Time spent looking at the line from beyond the hole and / or behind the ball is included in the time allowed for the stroke.

Timing will cease when the group is back in position. The players will be advised accordingly.

Note: In some circumstances, an individual player, or two players within a group, may be timed instead of the entire group.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF CONDITION

(Note 2 to Rule 6-7 and Note 4 to Rule 32-1b)

	Stroke Play	Match Play
1 Bad Time	One Stroke Penalty Stableford: 1 point from total	Loss of Hole
2 Bad Times	Further two stroke penalty Stableford: 2 further points from total	Further Loss of hole
3 Bad Times	Disqualification Stableford: Disqualification	Disqualification

e) Procedure When Again Out of Position During Same Round

If a group is "out of position" more than once during a round, the above procedure will apply on each occasion. Bad times and the application of penalties in the same round will be carried forward until the round is completed.

7. TRANSPORTATION

The specimen condition in the Rules of Golf (page 159-160) applies. Players must not ride in any form of transportation during a stipulated round unless authorised by the Committee.

Penalty for breach of condition: See Rules of Golf page 160

Copies of the Wales Golf Transportation Policy may be viewed at: <http://walesgolf.org/conditions-policies/>

8. MODIFIED RULES OF GOLF

Any player who wishes to make use of the modified rules of golf may do so in accordance with Wales Golf General Conditions of Competition & Rules <http://walesgolf.org/conditions-policies/>

9. RETURNING SCORE CARD

A player's scorecard is deemed to have been returned when he has left the recording office.

Note: Players **must** return their scorecards to the recording area promptly after conclusion of round.

10. COMPETITION CLOSED

- a) Match Play – the result of a match is deemed officially announced when it has been recorded in the Championship Office.
- b) Stroke Play – the results of the competition are deemed officially announced when the Championship presentation has concluded, or for events without an official prize presentation when the results have been posted on the Wales Golf website

**Wales Golf Championship Committee
September 2017**