



2024 WALES GOLF LOCAL RULES & TERMS OF COMPETITION

The following Local Rules & Terms of Competition, together with any additions or amendments, as published by Wales Golf at the golf course, will apply to all National Championships and International Matches run by Wales Golf unless specified otherwise at a championship and should be read in conjunction with the tournament specific and general Terms of Competition.

For the full text of any Local Rule referenced below, please refer to the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf effective January 2023.

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

1. OUT OF BOUNDS (Rule 18.2)

- 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.

2. PENALTY AREAS (Rule 17)

Yellow Penalty Areas are identified by yellow stakes or yellow lines.

Red Penalty Areas are identified by red stakes or red lines.

- Note:**
- a) When both stakes and lines are used, the stakes show where the penalty area is and the lines define the edge of the penalty area.
 - b) Relief without penalty is not available from abnormal course conditions (including immovable obstructions) when the ball is in a penalty area

3. ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITIONS, INCLUDING IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS (Rule 16)

3.1 Ground Under Repair

- a) All areas bounded by white lines.
- b) Any area of damaged ground that is considered by a Rules Official to be abnormal.
- c) Stone filled drainage ditches or channels
- d) Seams of cut turf: Model Local Rule F-7 is in effect: interference does not exist if the seam only interferes with the player's stance

3.2 Immovable Obstructions

- a) All artificially surfaced roads and paths on the course, including those covered with woodchip. Individual pieces of woodchip are loose impediments
- b) White lined areas tying into an immovable obstruction are to be treated as one 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

Model Local Rule F-5 is in effect: For a ball in the General Area, the player may take relief under Rule 16.1b if an immovable obstruction is on the line of play, and within two club-lengths of **both** the putting green and the ball. Exception – no relief is available under this Local Rule when the line of play chosen by the player is clearly unreasonable

5. TEMPORARY IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS (TIOs)

Model Local Rule F-23 is in effect: TIO's will include on course and main Championship Leader-boards, Tee Boards and other objects declared as such and published in additional Local Rules by Wales Golf.

6. INTEGRAL OBJECTS

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

- a) Artificial bunker faces
- b) Bunker liners in their intended position

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 (or a tower, support wires or poles supporting the power line). The stroke must be cancelled and replayed, see Rule 14.6

8. PROTECTION OF YOUNG TREES

Young trees identified by stakes, collars or tubes are no play zones:

- a) If a player's ball lies anywhere on the course except in a penalty area and such a tree interferes with a player's stance or the area of his intended swing, the player must take relief in accordance with the procedure prescribed in Rule 16.1f
- b) If a player's ball lies in a penalty area and such a tree interferes with a player's stance or the area of his intended swing, the player must take relief under the procedure prescribed in Rule 17.1e.

9. 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 device. **Penalty for Breach:** see Rule 4.3

For detailed information regarding the use of equipment at Wales Golf Championships, please see the Wales Golf Use of Equipment Policy at www.walesgolf.org

10. LIST OF CONFORMING GOLF BALLS

Model Local Rule G-3 is in effect: Any ball used in making a stroke in a Wales Golf Championship must be on the current list of Conforming Golf Balls issued by the R&A. **Penalty for breach:** Disqualification

11. CLUBS

a) Driving Clubs

Model Local Rule G-1 is in effect: Any driver the player uses to make a stroke must have a clubhead which is on the current list of Conforming Driver Heads issued by the R&A. **Penalty for breach:** Disqualification

b) Groove and Punch Mark Specifications

Model Local Rule G-2 is in effect for any Championship where the winner is decided on Gross scores: In making a stroke the player must use clubs that conform to the groove and punch mark specifications that took effect on 1 January 2010. **Penalty for breach:** Disqualification

12. CADDIES

Caddies may be used in Wales Golf Championships with the following exception: Caddies are not permitted in any Junior Championship. **Penalty for breach:** See Model Local Rule H-1.1

13. PRACTICE

a) Before or between rounds – Stroke Play Rounds

Model Local Rule I-1.2 is in effect: Rule 5.2b is modified in this way. A Player must not practice on the competition course before or between rounds. **Penalty for breach:** See Model Local Rule I-1.2

b) Between play of holes – Stroke Play Rounds

Model Local Rule I-2 is in effect: Rule 5.5b is modified in this way. Between play of two holes, a player must not make a 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. **Penalty for breach:** General Penalty

14. SUSPENSION OF PLAY (Rule 5.7)

The Following signals will be used at Wales Golf Championships to signify Suspensions & Resumptions of Play

- a) A suspension of play for a dangerous situation requiring immediate stop will be signalled by **one prolonged blast**
- b) Non-dangerous suspensions will be signalled by **three short blasts**.
- c) Resumptions of play will be signalled by **two short blasts**

Penalty for breach of local rule: see Rule 5.7

Note: Players will be informed by Wales Golf officials when play will resume and will be given sufficient time to reach the place on the course where they were before play was suspended. When play is suspended for a dangerous situation, all practice areas are immediately closed.

15. PACE OF PLAY (Rule 5.6b)

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) 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

Penalty for Breach

	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

Full details of the Wales Golf Pace of Play Policy can be viewed at <http://www.walesgolf.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/WG-Pace-of-Play-Policy-1.pdf>

16. STANDARDS OF PLAYER CONDUCT (Rule 1.2)

Players are required to adhere to the Wales Golf Code of Conduct in the Championship or Match they are competing in. Full details of the Standard of Player Conduct can be viewed at <http://www.walesgolf.org/conditions-policies/>

	Penalty for Breach
First Breach of the Code of Conduct	Formal Warning
Second Breach	General Penalty
Third Breach or any Serious Misconduct	Disqualification

17. TRANSPORTATION

Players or caddies must not ride in any form of transportation during a stipulated round unless authorised or later approved by the Committee. **Penalty for breach:** see Model Local Rule G-6

Note: Copies of the Transportation Policy may be viewed at: <http://www.walesgolf.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Wales-Golf-Transportation-Policy-Jan-2019.pdf>

18. RETURNING SCORE CARD

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

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

19. COMPETITION CLOSED

- a) Match Play – the result of a match is final when it has been recorded in the Championship Office.
- b) Stroke Play – the result of the competition is final, and so the competition is closed, 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 Championships & Events
January 2024