



# NORDIC GOLF LEAGUE

## Local Rules and Conditions of Competition

The following Local Rules and Terms of Competition have been formulated after consultation with the Rules of Golf Committees of the Nordic Federations. In the event of a dispute arising as to the meaning of any Rule of Golf, Nordic Golf League Local Rules or Terms of Competition, the Rule will be interpreted according to the English Edition of the Rules of Golf or Nordic Golf League Local Rules and Terms of Competition card.

The following Local Rules and Terms of Competition apply to all Nordic Golf League events. For the full text of the Local Rules and Terms, please refer to the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf effective from January 2019 as published by R&A Rules Limited.

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

Matchplay: Loss of Hole

Strokeplay: Two strokes

### SECTION A – LOCAL RULES

The following Local Rules, together with any additions or amendments as published by the committee at each golf course, will apply until further notice to all tournaments under the auspices of the Nordic Golf League.

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

- A ball is out of bounds when it is beyond any wall defining a boundary.
- A ball that is played from one side of a road which is defined as out of bounds and comes to rest 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.

#### 2. Penalty areas (Rule 17)

- The weekly local rules sheet will specify which (if any) red penalty areas have a same distance option on the opposite side. Model local rule B-2.1 will apply only to the penalty areas that are listed.
- 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 side relief is available under model local rule B-2.1.
- Where a dropping zone is marked for a penalty area, 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)

##### A. Ground Under Repair.

- All areas bounded by white lines including spectator crossing points where marked.
- Seams of Cut Turf: Model Local Rule F-7 is in effect.
- French drains (stone-filled drainage ditches).
- For holes left by movable obstructions in parts of the general area cut to fairway height or less, free relief is available for lie of ball or area of intended swing, but there is no relief for interference to the stance.
- Animal hole: Free relief is available for lie of ball or area of intended swing, but there is no relief for interference to the stance.
- Painted yardage markings on the general area cut to fairway height or less and painted dots on greens are treated as GUR. Free relief is available for lie of ball or area of intended swing, but there is no relief for interference to the stance.

##### B. Immovable Obstructions

- White lined areas and the immovable obstruction they tie into are treated as a single abnormal course condition.
- Landscaped garden areas (and everything growing in them) that are completely surrounded by an immovable obstruction are treated as a single abnormal course condition.
- Mats that are secured and plastic cable ramps covering cables.

##### C. Temporary Water.

Squeeze Policy for Temporary Water removal.

If a player's ball lies on the putting green and there is interference by temporary water on the putting green, the player may take relief under rule 16.1d or have his line of play squeezed. The committee may squeeze greens until players are nearby and if conditions deteriorate, to keep play going, they may authorise a combination of all the above measures. Any squeezing should be done across the line of play, must extend a reasonable distance beyond the hole (i.e. at least one club-length) and may only be carried out by committee authorised personnel.

#### D. Embedded ball

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

#### **4. Integral objects**

- Bunker beddings and bunker liners made of artificial material in their intended position.
- Wires, cables, wrapping or other objects where they are closely attached to trees or other permanent objects.
- Artificial retaining walls and pilings when located within penalty areas.

#### **5. Permanent overhead power line.**

Model Local Rule E-11 is in effect but only for a ball which strikes a power line located in bounds and not the supporting pole. (Stroke is cancelled and must be replayed).

#### **6. Temporary Immovable Obstructions. (TIO).**

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

- Dropping Zone 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 options 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 dropping zone is a relief area under Rule 14.3 meaning a ball must be dropped in and come to rest in the dropping zone.
- 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 and is not available when the player chooses to operate under Rule 16.1.

#### **7. Clubs and Balls.**

- List of Conforming 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.
- 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.
- Conforming Balls List. Model local rule G-3 is in effect.  
**Penalty for making a stroke in breach of this local rule:** Disqualification.
- The 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:**

General Penalty for each hole during which the player is in breach.

#### **8. Pace of Play (Rule 5.6b (3))**

- A player, for whom it is possible to make a stroke and, from when it is deemed that he should have reached his ball, has
- 60 seconds to make his stroke if he is deemed to not have had time for preparing for his stroke
  - 40 seconds to make his stroke if he is deemed to have had time for preparing to make his stroke

A player in breach of any of the time limits is deemed to have a "bad time".

#### **Penalty for breach of the local rule during same round:**

One bad time	Verbal warning and 20 EUR fine
Two bad times	Verbal warning and 40 EUR fine
Three bad times	One stroke penalty and 60 EUR fine
Four bad times	Two stroke penalty and 80 EUR fine
Five bad times	Disqualification

## Notes:

1. A player has had time to prepare for making his stroke if it is deemed that he should have reached his ball while,
  - a) another player in the same group, who is to make his stroke before the player, is preparing to make his stroke, or
  - b) the group in front of the player's group is within reach of the player's intended stroke.
2. It is possible to make a stroke when,
  - a) the group in front of the player's group is out of reach of the player's intended stroke, or
  - b) the player's group does not have a ruling or is not waiting for a rules official, or
  - c) the player does not have to wait for players on holes close by.
3. Players will not be advised that they are being timed.
4. Any player who has five bad times during the season will be fined 100 EUR and for every additional bad time he will be fined 100 EUR.
5. All bad times will be recorded on the official Pace of Play list on the Nordic Golf League website.

## 9. Play suspensions (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.

## 10. Practice (Rule 5)

- a. Practice before or between rounds in Stroke Play\_Rule 5.2b. Rule 5.2b is modified in this way:

A player must not practice on the competition course before or between rounds.

**Penalty for breach of Rule 5.2:** See penalty statement in Rule 5.2.

- b. Practice on our Near Previous Putting Green Prohibited. Rule 5.5b.

For stroke play events only, Rule 5.5b is modified in this way:

Between the play of two holes, 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.

## 11. Transportation Policy.

Model local rule G-6 is in effect and modifies Rule 4.3a(1) in this way:

During a round a player or caddie must not ride on any form of motorised transportation except as authorised or later approved by the penalty committee. (A player taking a stroke and distance penalty is always authorised).

## Penalty for breach of this local rule:

General Penalty for each hole during which there is a breach. A breach between holes applies to the next hole.

## 12. Ball Played From Outside Relief Area When Taking Back-On-the-Line Relief

When taking Back-On-the-Line relief, there is no additional penalty if a player plays a ball that was *dropped* in the *relief area* required by the relevant Rule (Rule 16.1c(2), 17.1d(2), 19.2b or 19.3b) but came to rest outside the *relief area*, so long as the ball, when played, is within one *club-length* of where it first touched the ground when *dropped*.

This exemption from penalty applies even if the ball is played from nearer the hole than the *reference point* (but not if played from nearer the *hole* than the spot of the original ball or the estimated point where the ball last crossed the edge of the *penalty area*).

This Local Rule does not change the procedure for taking Back-On-the-Line relief under a relevant Rule. This means that the *reference point* and *relief area* are not changed by this Local Rule and that Rule 14.3c(2) can be applied by a player who drops a ball in the right way and it comes to rest outside the *relief area*, whether this occurs on the first or second drop.

## 13. Replacement of Club that is Broken or Significantly Damaged

Rule 4.1b(3) is modified in this way:

If a player's club is "broken or significantly damaged" during the round by the player or caddie, except in cases of abuse, the player may replace the club with any club under Rule 4.1b(4).

When replacing a club, the player must immediately take the broken or significantly damaged club out of play, using the procedure in Rule 4.1c(1).

For the purposes of this Local Rule:

A club is “broken or significantly damaged” when:

- the shaft breaks into pieces, splinters or is bent (but not when the shaft is only dented)
- the club face impact area is visibly deformed (but not when the club face is only scratched)
- the clubhead is visibly and significantly deformed
- the clubhead is detached or loose from the shaft, or
- the grip is loose.

**Exception:** A club face or clubhead is not “broken or significantly damaged” solely because it is cracked.

**Penalty for Breach of Local Rule – See Rule 4.1b.**

## **SECTION B – TERMS OF COMPETITION**

### **1. Deciding Ties.**

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

### **2. Recording Area and Scorecard Returned.**

The location of the recording area will be detailed each week on the local rules sheet. The scorecard is returned when the player leaves the recording area with both feet.

### **3. Results of Competition - Competition Closed**

The Competition is closed when the final result is officially published by the committee.

### **4. Anti-Doping**

Players are required to comply with and be bound by the Nordic Golf Leagues Anti-Doping Policy, which can be found in the Nordic Golf League Rules and Regulations.

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 both 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.

*Nordic Golf League Executive Committee, January 2019*