



**ENGLISH GOLF UNION**

*...at the heart of golf*

# 2011 HARD CARD

**STANDARD LOCAL RULES, CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION,  
REGULATIONS and SAFETY ADVICE**

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## **A. LOCAL RULES**

The following Local Rules, together with any additions or amendments published by the EGU at the golf course, will apply to all Championships run by the EGU.

**Note:** These Local Rules replace any Local Rules published by a host club (e.g. on a club's score card).

### **1. Out of Bounds (Rule 27–1)**

- a) Beyond any wall, fence, hedge 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:** i. Where out of bounds is defined by a fence or line of white stakes, 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 beyond such a line.

- ii. 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 or yellow lines.

Lateral water hazards are **defined** by red stakes or red lines.

When both stakes and lines are used, the stakes **identify** the hazard and the lines **define** the hazard margin.

**Note:** i. 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.

- ii. Stakes defining the margin of a water hazard are obstructions.

iii. Relief without penalty is **not** available from immovable obstructions or abnormal ground conditions when the ball is in a water hazard.

iv. Retaining artificial walls and pilings surrounding/bordering water hazards are immovable obstructions.

### **3. Ground Under Repair (Rule 25–1)**

- a) Any area encircled by a white or blue line.
- b) Any area of damaged ground that is considered by a Rules Official to be abnormal.

### **4. Immovable Obstructions (Rule 24–2) include:**

- a) All artificially surfaced roads and paths on the course, including those covered with wood chips. All other paths and tracks are integral parts of the course.

- b) White lined areas adjoining any immovable obstruction are part of the obstruction and not ground under repair.
  - c) Stone-filled drainage ditches or channels.
  - d) Sleepers or wooden boards within bunkers.
5. **Trees** which are staked or otherwise identified or protected (e.g. by wrapping). 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 (Immovable Obstruction).

#### 6. **Immovable Obstructions Close to Putting Green**

Relief from interference by an immovable obstruction may be obtained under Rule 24-2. In addition, if a ball lies off the putting green but not in a hazard and an immovable obstruction on or within two club-lengths of the putting green and within two club-lengths of the ball intervenes on the line of play between the ball and the hole, the player may take relief as follows:

The ball must be lifted and dropped **at** the nearest point to where the ball lay that (a) is not nearer the hole, (b) avoids intervention and (c) is not in a hazard or on a putting green. The ball may be cleaned when lifted.

Relief under this Local Rule is also available if the player's ball lies on the putting green and an immovable obstruction within two club-lengths of the putting green intervenes on his line of putt. The player may take relief as follows:

The ball must be lifted and placed at the nearest point to where the ball lay that (a) is not nearer the hole, (b) avoids intervention and (c) is not in a hazard. The ball may be cleaned when lifted.

7. **Stones in Bunkers** are movable obstructions (Rule 24-1 applies).

#### 8. **Wrong Greens (Rule 25-3)**

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

#### 9. **Bunker Faces**

- a) A bunker face which consists of stacked turf is **not** part of the bunker and is **not** deemed to be a "closely mown area" (Rule 25-2 : Embedded ball).
- b) A grass covered bunker face, not consisting of stacked turf, is likewise **not** part of the bunker.

#### 10. **Distance-Measuring Devices (Rule 14-3)**

In all EGU Championships, a player may obtain distance information by using a device that measures distance only. If, during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance-measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his play (e.g. gradient, windspeed, temperature, etc), the player is in breach of Rule 14-3, **for which the penalty is disqualification**, regardless of whether any such additional function is actually used.

- Note:**
- i. Trolleys with a distance-measuring capability: May be used provided any other features, which are non-conforming, are disabled (e.g. 'taped up' or switched off).
  - ii. Multi-functional devices (such as a mobile phone) with a distance-measuring application: May be used provided the application is restricted to "distance only" and the device does not have any other "non-conforming" features or applications.

Unless otherwise specified above or the breach is covered by a Rule of Golf, **PENALTY FOR BREACH OF A LOCAL RULE:**

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

## **B. CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION**

The following Conditions of Competition, together with any additions or amendments published by the EGU on the relevant entry form or at the golf course, will apply under Rule 33–1 to all EGU Championships.

### **1. Eligibility. Entries. Withdrawals.**

Refer to EGU's "General Conditions" and Conditions of Competition for the particular championship: In the Year Book and at [www.englishgolfunion.org](http://www.englishgolfunion.org)

### **2. List of Conforming Driver Heads**

The specimen Condition in the Rules of Golf (pages 141–142) is in effect.

**Note:** An updated List of Conforming Driver Heads is available on the R&A's website ([www.randa.org](http://www.randa.org)) and can be checked at the EGU's Mobile Office.

### **3. 2010 Rules – Club Face Markings** (The new "groove regulations") do not apply.

### **4. List of Conforming Golf Balls**

The specimen Condition in the Rules of Golf (page 142) is in effect.

**Note:** An updated List of Conforming Golf Balls is available on the R&A's website ([www.randa.org](http://www.randa.org)) and can be checked at the EGU's Mobile Office.

### **5. Caddies**

There are no restrictions on the use of caddies, except in some junior championships (see Conditions of Competition for the particular championship), when either caddies are not allowed or they must be under 18 on 1<sup>st</sup> January of the year in which the championship is being played.

**PENALTY FOR BREACH OF CONDITION: See Rules of Golf, page 144**

### **6. Practice (Rule 7–1)**

- a) In match play, on any day of a competition, practice on the Championship course is prohibited before the player's first match and between matches. When a match is completed, no further holes in that round may be played.
- b) In stroke play, the provisions of Rule 7–1b apply.

**PENALTY FOR BREACH OF CONDITIONS 6 a & b: Disqualification**

**Note:** i. All recognised practice areas within the bounds of the course may be used by players for practice on any day of a competition.

ii. See also Practice Rounds' Regulations (C.4 below).

### **7. Time of Starting (Rule 6–3)**

- a) All players in a group must be present and ready to play at the time established by the Committee and should report to the starter at least five minutes before their start time.
- b) (Note to Rule 6–3). The specimen Condition (the "five minute rule") in the Rules of Golf (page 143) is in effect.

## 8. Pace of Play (Note to Rule 6–7)

### a) Time Allowed for Round

Each hole is given a maximum completion time, primarily based upon its length and difficulty. That information is printed on the score card, together with the maximum time allowed for the completion of 18 holes, which is also displayed on the first tee.

### b) “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

- i. Account will be taken of difficulties encountered by a group e.g. ball searches, rulings, inclement weather.
- ii. If a decision is taken to time a group, each player in the group will be informed the group is out of position and will be subject to individual timings by a Rules Official.

d) **Timing Ceases** when the group is back in position. The players will be advised accordingly.

### e) Time Allowed for a Shot

- i. The first player to play in the group is allowed 50 seconds. Subsequent players have 40 seconds.
- ii. The time will start when the 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.
- iii. The time allowed includes any yardage assessment, any walking forwards or backwards and any pre-shot routine, including practice swings.
- iv. 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 shot.

### f) PENALTY FOR BREACH OF CONDITION

1 Bad Time Player warned and told a further bad time will result in a penalty.

	<b>Stroke Play</b>	<b>Match Play</b>
2 Bad Times	One stroke penalty	One stroke penalty
3 Bad Times	Further two stroke penalty	Loss of hole
4 Bad Times	Disqualification	Disqualification

### g) Procedure When Again Out of Position During Same Round

If a group is subsequently out of position 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.

## 9. Suspension of Play Due to a Dangerous Situation (Note to Rule 6–8b)

- a) The specimen Condition in the Rules of Golf (pages 144–145) is in effect i.e. when the klaxon sounds, play **must** be discontinued **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.
  - iii. See “Safety Advice” (D below).

- b) **Resumption of Play** (Rule 6–8b) will be signalled by two short blasts of the klaxon. Competitors must then (but **not** before then) resume play.

### **PENALTY FOR BREACH OF RULE: Disqualification.**

- Note:**
- i. Competitors will be informed by EGU Officials that play will resume shortly.
  - ii. Competitors will be given sufficient time to reach the place where they were on the course before play was suspended.

## 10. Advice in Match Play Team Competitions (Note to Rule 8)

- a) Each team may appoint one person (in addition to the persons from whom advice may be asked under Rule 8), who may give advice to members of that team. Such person must be identified to the Championship Committee before giving advice.
- b) That person may not:
- i. walk on to a putting green
  - ii. give advice to a player on or around the putting green when the player’s ball lies on the putting green.

## 11. Transportation

The specimen Condition in the Rules of Golf (page 146) is in effect: Players must not ride on any form of transportation during a stipulated round unless authorised by the Committee.

### **PENALTY FOR BREACH OF CONDITION: See Rules of Golf, page 146.**

**Note:** See also EGU’s Transportation Policy ([www.englishgolfunion.org](http://www.englishgolfunion.org)), which includes provisions for people with disabilities.

## 12. Returning Score Card

A player’s score card is deemed officially returned to the Committee when he has left the recording office/area.

**Note:** Players **must** promptly return their score cards to the Championship Office.

## 13. Deciding Ties

See the EGU’s General Conditions published in the Year Book and at [www.englishgolfunion.org](http://www.englishgolfunion.org)

## 14. Results of Match or Championship: 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 and the competition is closed when the Championship Trophy is presented to the winner.

**15. Disputes** will be settled by a committee, formed by the Chairman of the Championship (three to form a quorum). That Committee’s decision shall be final.

## C. REGULATIONS

The following regulations, together with any additions or amendments published at the course, will apply to all EGU Championships, **including practice days**.

### 1. Dress Code

Competitors are not allowed to wear shorts, unless otherwise specified in the Conditions of or the Players' Instructions for a particular championship.

Caddies may wear tailored shorts and white sports socks if allowed by the host club.

### 2. General Behaviour

Any competitor who during the course of an event (including practice days) misbehaves by, for example, swearing, spitting, abusing others, throwing clubs or purposely damaging the golf course, clubhouse, or other club property, or acts in a manner which otherwise might bring the game into disrepute may be barred from entering or playing in EGU Championships for such period as the Championship Committee may decide.

### 3. Trolleys must not be taken onto tees or between a greenside bunker and the green and/or onto fringes of greens.

### 4. Practice Rounds

**One ball only** may be played during practice rounds, with the following exceptions:

- a) If a player misses the green with his shot to the green, he may play one additional shot.
- b) Where the Rules of Golf apply (e.g. provisional ball).
- c) A player may practise putting (but **not** chipping or bunker play) provided play is not unduly delayed.

### 5. Mobile Phones (including pagers and similar devices): May **not** be used on the course (including on practice days) by players or caddies for making/sending or receiving calls or texts except in cases of emergency..

**Note:** Local Rule 10 (above) covers the use of mobile phones when used as a distance-measuring device.

If a serious breach of the above Regulations occurs, or where there are repetitive breaches, a player may be disqualified under Rule 33–7 for a serious breach of etiquette and/or may be barred from entering or playing in EGU Championships for such period as the Championship Committee may decide.

#### **D. SAFETY ADVICE**

EGU Officials will signal a suspension of play for a dangerous situation with one long blast of klaxons. That is the signal for **everyone** to evacuate the course.

**"If you can see it, flee it; if you can hear it, clear it."**

If it is not possible to give sufficient warning to clear the course before an electrical storm, anyone affected should comply with the following advice. This advice is designed to assist. It is not an instruction or a Condition of Competition. The EGU is not liable for any injury or damage caused by following this advice.

**When the warning klaxon is sounded to suspend play for a dangerous situation, ensure that you:**

**DO NOT stand under overhead power lines.**

**DO NOT shelter under trees or on high ground.**

**DO NOT take cover in wooden or metallic shelters, unless the shelter is fully enclosed and properly earthed.**

**DO NOT exit the course by walking under trees if at all possible.**

**Keep as low as possible and, if necessary, crouch in the nearest bunker or other low point on the golf course.**

**Switch off and most certainly DO NOT use a mobile telephone.**

**DO NOT put up your umbrella under any circumstances.**

**“Better soaked than croaked”**

EGU Mobile Office Telephone Numbers:  
07711 254841 or 01526 888178