



# 2020 CHAMPIONSHIPS AND MATCHES

## LOCAL RULES AND TERMS OF COMPETITION

The following Local Rules and Terms of Competition, together with any additions or amendments published by England Golf at the golf course, will apply to all Championships and International Matches run by England Golf. The word 'Championships' includes all England Golf events e.g. 'Tournaments', 'Finals' and 'Competitions'.

For the full text of any Local Rule referenced below, please refer to the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf effective January 2019 and the Clarifications updated quarterly by The R&A, available at [www.randa.org](http://www.randa.org)

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)

- 1a) Beyond any wall, fence, hedge or line of white stakes defining the boundary of the course.
- 1b) On or beyond any white line defining the boundary of the course.
- 1c) Where a boundary is defined by a white line and, furthermore, white stakes with black tops have been placed for visibility, these stakes are movable obstructions.

### 2. Penalty Areas (Rule 17)

- 2a) When both stakes and lines are used, the line defines the margin of the penalty area.
- 2b) When a penalty area adjoins a boundary, the penalty area edge extends to and coincides with the boundary.
- 2c) When a player's ball is found in or it is known or virtually certain to have come to rest in any penalty area where the ball last crossed the edge of the penalty area at a point that coincides with the boundary of the course, opposite side relief is available under Model Local Rule B-2.1.



### **3. Abnormal Course Conditions (including Immovable Obstructions) (Rule 16)**

#### **3a) Ground Under Repair**

- i. Any area bounded by a white line.
- ii. Any area of damaged ground that is considered by a referee to be abnormal.
- iii. French drains (stone-filled drainage ditches).
- iv. Seams of cut turf; Model Local Rule F-7 is in effect but interference does not exist if the seam only interferes with the players stance.
- v. 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 player's stance.

#### **3b) Immovable Obstructions**

- i. White lined areas and the immovable obstruction they tie into are treated as a single abnormal course condition.
- ii. All artificially surfaced roads and paths on the course, including those covered with woodchip or mulch. Individual pieces of woodchip are loose impediments.

#### **3c) Embedded Ball**

Rule 16.3 is modified in this way: No free relief is allowed for a ball embedded in the stacked turf face or soil face above a bunker.

### **4. Immovable Obstructions Close to Putting Greens**

Model Local Rule F-5 is in effect: In addition to the types of interference described in Rule 16.1a, when a ball lies in the general area, interference also exists if an immovable obstruction is, on the players line of play, is within two club-lengths of the putting green, and is within two club-lengths of the ball. The player may take relief under Rule 16.1b.

Exception: There is no relief under this Local Rule if the player chooses a line of play that is clearly unreasonable.



## **5. Ball Played From Outside Relief Area When Taking Back-On-The-Line Relief**

Model Local Rule E-12 is in effect.

## **6. Integral Objects**

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

- 6a) Artificial bunker faces.
- 6b) Bunker liners in their intended position.

## **7. Temporary Immovable Obstructions**

Model Local Rule F-23, with any additions or amendments in the additional Local Rules published by England Golf, is in effect. TIOs include on-course scoreboards.

## **8. Protection of Young Trees**

Young trees identified by wrapping, stakes or otherwise protected are no play zones:

- 8a) If a player's ball lies anywhere on the course other than in a penalty area and it lies on or touches such a tree or such a tree interferes with the player's stance or area of intended swing, the player must take relief under Rule 16.1f.
- 8b) If a ball lies in a penalty area, and interference to the player's stance or area of intended swing exists from such a tree, the player must take relief either with penalty under Rule 17.1e or with free relief under Rule 17.1e(2).

## **9. Replacement of Club that is Broken or Significantly Damaged**

Model Local Rule G-9 is in effect.

## **10. Clubs and Balls**

- 10a) 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.
- 10b) 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.
- 10c) List of Conforming Golf Balls: Model Local Rule G-3 is in effect.



Penalty for breach of Local Rule: Disqualification.

Note 1: 10a and 10b do not include England Golf handicap competitions.

Note 2: An updated List of Conforming Clubs and Balls is available on [www.randa.org](http://www.randa.org)

#### **11. Pace of Play (Rule 5.6)**

Every Championship or Match has a Pace of Play Policy that will be strictly enforced. Please ensure you obtain a copy of the Pace of Play Policy and read it carefully before playing.

#### **12. 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

Penalty for breach of Local Rule: Disqualification. See Rule 5.7b and 5.7c

Note: When play is stopped for imminent danger, all practice areas will be immediately closed.

#### **13. Practice (Rule 5.2)**

13a) In stroke play, Rule 5.2b is modified in this way: A player must not practise on the competition course before or between rounds.

13b) In match play, Rule 5.2a is modified in this way: A player must not practise on the competition course before or between rounds.

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

#### **14. 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 or video device.

Penalty for breach of Local Rule: see Rule 4.3



**15. Standards of Player Conduct (Rule 1.2)**

Every Championship or Match has a Code of Conduct Policy that will be strictly enforced. Please ensure you obtain a copy of the Code of Conduct Policy and read it carefully before playing.

**16. Transportation**

During a round, a player must not ride on any form of motorized transportation except as authorized or later approved by the Committee. A player who will play, or has played, under penalty of stroke and distance is always authorized to ride on motorized transportation.

Penalty for breach of Local Rule: 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.

Note: See England Golf's Transportation Policy, which includes provisions for people with disabilities ([www.Englandgolf.org/competition-policies](http://www.Englandgolf.org/competition-policies))

**17. Caddies**

Caddies are not permitted in any championship or event during the COVID 19 pandemic.

Penalty for breach of Local Rule: General Penalty, see Model Local Rule H-1.1 and H-1.2.

**18. Returning of Scorecard**

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

**19. Results of Match or Championship – Competition Closed**

**19a) Match Play**

The result of a match is officially announced when it has been recorded in the Championship Office.

**19b) Stroke Play**

When the Championship trophy is presented to the winner, the results of the competition are officially announced, and the competition is closed.