

PERMANENT LOCAL RULES FOR FRENCH FEDERAL AMATEUR TOURNAMENTS

The following Local Rules apply to all amateur tournaments run under the auspices of the ffgolf. They all refer to the Rules of Golf effective January 2023.

1. Out of Bounds (Rule 18.2)

Beyond any wall defining the boundary of the course.

A ball which crosses a road defined as out of bounds and comes to rest beyond that road is out of bounds, even though it may lie on another part of the course which is in bounds for other holes. (Model Local Rule A-5).

Any closed gate attached to an object defining a course boundary is part of the boundary object, relief is not allowed for such a gate under Rules 15.2 or 16.1. But an open gate is not treated as part of the boundary object and may be closed or moved to a different position (Model Local Rule F-26).

2. Penalty Areas (Rule 17)

When a player's ball last crosses the edge of a red penalty area that coincides with a course boundary, as an extra relief option for one penalty stroke, the player may drop the original ball or another ball on the opposite side of the penalty area (Model Local Rule B-2.2).

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

a. Ground under repair

- a) All areas bounded by white or blue lines and/or blue stakes.
- b) Any area of damaged ground (e.g. caused by crowd or vehicle movement) that is considered by a referee to be abnormal (Model Local Rule Type F-4).
- c) In the general area, seams of cut turf (not the turf itself) are deemed to be ground under repair. However, interference does not exist if the seam only interferes with the player's stance. All seams within the cut turf area are treated as the same seam in taking relief. (Model Local Rule type F-7).
- d) Gravel drains and French drains (stone-filled drainage ditches full of gravels and pebbles).
- e) Gullies in bunkers.

b. Animal Hole

Interference does not exist if a hole made by an animal interferes with only the player's stance. Relief will be denied.

c. Immovable Obstructions

- a) White lined areas and the immovable obstruction they tie into are treated as a single abnormal ground condition.
- b) Landscaped garden areas (plant beds, groves etc) and everything growing in them that are surrounded by an immovable obstruction are treated as a single abnormal ground condition.
- c) Roads and paths surfaced with woodchip or mulch. Individual pieces of woodchip are loose impediments.
- d) Irrigation pipes fixed or secured to the ground by spikes/stakes and other anchoring systems, are immovable obstructions. Interference does not exist if a pipe interferes only with the player's stance. Relief will be denied.

4. Dropping Zones

Where a dropping zone is marked, it is an additional option for relief. The dropping zone is a relief area (Rule.14.3). A ball must be dropped in and come to rest in the relief area.

5. Integral Objects

- a) Artificial retaining walls and/or pilings when located within penalty areas.
- b) Bunker liners in their intended position.
- c) Any closed gate attached to a boundary object.

6. Stroke and Distance Alternative

The Model Local Rule E-5 providing an alternative to stroke and distance for lost ball or ball out of bounds is not in effect in federal tournaments.

7. List of Conforming Driver Heads and Balls (Rule 4)

Updated lists of conforming driver heads and balls are issued by R&A (see *Equipment Rules* on www.randa.org) (Model Local Rules G-1 and G-3).

Penalty for making a stroke with a club or a ball in breach of these Local Rules: Disqualification

8. Pace of Play (Rule 5.6)

A. During a round:

In the absence of mitigating circumstances, a group is liable to be timed if it is in excess of the time allowed and in the case of second or subsequent groups, “out of position”. From the commencement of timing, if any player exceeds 40 seconds on a shot, he is deemed to have had a “bad time”.

The time allowed will be determined by the Tournament Committee and will be published on the official notice board. The first group or 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. A group is “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 completed.

At any time, if a player is observed by a referee taking more than 80 seconds to play a shot, the player will be notified of the excessive shot time and given an official warning. The player will also be advised that the Committee may start individual timing at any time, even if his group is not out of position.

Penalty for breach of Local Rule:

- 1st bad time – Verbal warning from Referee and the group will be advised that any further bad time will be penalised
- 2nd bad time – One stroke penalty
- 3rd bad time – Additional General Penalty
- 4th bad time – Disqualification

Notes:

- 1) Timings will be taken from the moment it is decided by the referee that it is the player’s turn to play and that he is able to play without interference or distraction.
- 2) Timing ceases when a group is back in position and players will be informed accordingly. A player who has incurred one or more bad times will have these bad times carried forward in the whole tournament.

B. At the Recording Area:

The Committee determines the maximum time allowed for the round. All groups have to complete the round within this time. It is the players’ responsibilities to respect this maximum time allowed.

At the recording desk, **all players of the group will incur a general penalty to be added to their score on hole n°18 for breach of Rule 5.6** (Unreasonable delay; Prompt Pace of Play):

- For the 1st group, if they have exceeded the time allowed by **10** minutes or more.
- For the following groups :
 - If they have exceeded the time allowed by **10** minutes or more AND
 - If they have lost their starting interval with the preceding group by more than **10** minutes.

Note: The Committee, after hearing the players, will consider as mitigating circumstances only very specific cases defined and assessed by the Committee.

In federal stroke play competitions, recommendations regarding the “Ready Golf” apply.

9. Suspension and Resumption of Play (Rule 5.7)

Immediate stop for imminent danger: one prolonged note of siren.

Stop for a non-dangerous situation: three consecutive notes of a siren.

Resumption of play: two consecutive notes of a siren.

In the event of an immediate interruption, all practice areas will be closed immediately until the Committee declares them open again. Players practicing on closed practice areas must immediately stop their practice or they will be disqualified.

10. Transportation

Players, caddies, team captains and person who may give advice must walk at any time during a round. A player who will play, or has played, under penalty of stroke and distance, is authorized to ride on motorized transportation to reach the place where the previous stroke was made and/or come back from this place (Model Local Rule G-6).

Penalty for breach of the player or his caddie:

General Penalty for each hole during which there is a breach

A breach between two holes applies to the next hole

Penalty for breach of the team captain or the person who may give advice:

1st breach: official warning

2nd breach: exclusion from the course

Next breach: disqualification of the team

In a multi-round competition, a penalty incurred by the captain or the person authorized to give advice during a round will be carried forward in the whole tournament.

11. Advice in Team Competitions (Rule 24)

The team captain is allowed to give advice. In addition, each team may designate an additional advisor. These advisors may give advice to their team members as described in Rule 24.4.

The additional advisor may or may not be a professional golfer. The captain and the advisor must be declared to the Committee prior to the start of the competition on the team composition form.

If the captain or advisor is a player, while playing, he may not give advice to a teammate other than his partner (Rule 10.2). (Local Rules Types H-2 and H-3).

12. Returning of Score Card (Rule 3.3)

A player's scorecard is officially returned to the Committee when the player has left the recording area.

13. Competition Results – Competition closed

a) Match play

The result of a match is officially announced when it has been recorded by the Tournament Direction.

b) Stroke play

The competition is closed when the results of the competition have been officially announced.

14. Code of conduct (Rule 1.2)

Breaches of the Code of Conduct and incurred penalties are as follows:

(a) Failure to care for the course

Falling into this category, any action which undermines the integrity of the course such as:

- Entering a no play zone where entering is prohibited.
- Systematically not replacing divots.
- Not raking footprints in bunkers.
- Not respect the training rules during the practice round.
- Not repairing ball-marks.

- Not replacing course equipment which has been removed (e.g. stakes, signs, 135 meters markers etc.).
- Dropping the flagstick on the green without slowing the fall.
- Leaving waste or cigarette butts on the course...

(b) Unacceptable language

Falling into this category, any verbal manifestation disturbing the quietness which usually should reign in the game of golf.

Insults or threats may be considered as a serious breach of the Code of Conduct and may cause immediate disqualification, possibly followed by an appearance before the ffgolf disciplinary Committee.

Insulting a referee or a committee member may cause immediate exclusion from the course.

(c) Inappropriate behaviour

Falling into this category behaviour which is unacceptable on a golf course such as:

- Infringing a smoking prohibition.
- Distracting other players by making noise, using mobile phone etc.
- Throwing a club.
- Striking equipment in anger (with a club or by kicking).
- Damaging the soil by striking it with a club.
- Violently putting back the flagstick in the hole.
- Being under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances.

Serious misconduct in failing to meet the Code's standards may cause immediate general penalty or even disqualification, possibly followed by an appearance before the ffgolf disciplinary Committee.

Penalties incurred for being under the influence of illegal substances do not preclude the sanctions imposed under the ffgolf anti-doping disciplinary regulation.

Examples of player's actions which may be considered as a serious misconduct:

- Deliberately breaking his own equipment or any course equipment (e.g.: tee markers).
- Deliberately causing serious damage to a putting green.
- Disagreeing with the course setup and taking it on himself to move tee-markers or boundary stakes.
- Throwing a club towards another player or spectator.
- Deliberately distracting other players while they are making strokes.
- Removing loose impediments or movable obstructions to disadvantage another player after that other player has asked him to leave them in place.
- Repeatedly refusing to lift a ball at rest when it interferes with another player in stroke play.
- Deliberately not playing in accordance with the Rules and potentially gaining a significant advantage by doing so, despite incurring a penalty for a breach of the relevant Rule.
- Committing an act of physical aggression.

Penalty for breaching the Code of Conduct in stroke play (Sections a,b,c) :

1st breach – Warning

2nd breach – One stroke penalty

3rd breach – Additional General Penalty

4th breach – Disqualification

Serious misconduct – General Penalty or Disqualification

Penalty for breaching the Code of Conduct in match play (Sections a,b,c) :

1st breach: warning

2nd breach: 1 stroke penalty

3rd breach: adjustment of match score by deduction of a new hole

4th breach: disqualification

Serious misconduct: adjustment of the match score by deduction of one hole or disqualification

With the exception of the official warning, the application of the preceding penalties is the exclusive competence of the Committee or in Match Play of a referee mandated by the Committee.

Any warning by a referee or an authorized official must be addressed to the player as soon as possible after the breach. A player cannot be penalized for a second identical breach as long as he has not received a warning for a first breach.

In a multiple rounds tournament, a penalty incurred during a round for a breach of the Code of Conduct will be carried forward for the rest of the tournament. Penalties are cumulative throughout the whole tournament.

In the case of a breach between two holes, should a penalty stroke be incurred, the penalty is applied as of the end of the hole just completed.

The player is responsible for his caddie's conduct and breach of the Code.

(d) Dress Code

Players are expected to comply with the dress code of the Club hosting the tournament or, failing that, an appropriate dress is required. For interclub tournaments it is desirable that team players wear their Club uniform.

Players must comply with the regulation on logos and advertising inscriptions as set out in the Rules and Decisions on the Rules of Amateur Status.

In case of major deviation from the dress code, a player may be asked to leave the course.

In case of violation of the code of conduct by a spectator, accompanying person or parent, these individuals may be summoned in front of the event committee, which may order them to leave the club.

During any training period, the code of conduct is in force and the penalties incurred will be applied to the next hole to be played in the competition. Failure to comply with the practice rules specified in the Vademecum will be considered as a behavioral misconduct.