

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. See the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf for references to Model local Rules.

1. Out of Bounds (Rule 18.2)

Beyond any wall or fence defining the boundaries of the course.

A ball coming to rest beyond a road defined as out of bounds is out of bounds, even though it may lie on another part of the course. (Model Local Rule A-5).

Any closed gate attached to a boundary object 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 and rests in this area, 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 marked 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 an abnormal course condition (Model Local Rule F-4).
- c) In the general area, seams of cut turf are deemed to be ground under repair. All seams within the cut turf area are treated as the same seam in taking relief. Interference does not exist if the seam only interferes with the player's stance. Relief will be denied. (Model Local Rule F-7).
- d) Gravel drains and French drains (stone-filled drainage ditches full of gravels and pebbles).
- e) Gullies/Ravines in bunkers.

b. Animal Hole

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

c. Immovable Obstructions

- a) Areas marked by white lines and connected to an immovable obstruction are considered to be part of the obstruction.
- b) Landscaped garden areas (and everything growing in them) which are surrounded by an immovable obstruction are treated as a single abnormal course 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 only interferes with the player's stance. Relief will be denied.

4. Animal not defined as loose impediment near the ball

An animal not defined as loose impediment may be removed. If the ball moves there is no penalty, and the ball must be replaced. (Model Local Rule E-13).

5. Dropping Zones

When a dropping zone is provided by the Committee it is an extra option for taking relief. The relief area is defined by that dropping zone (see Rule 14.3) and the ball must be dropped in and come to rest in the dropping zone. (Model Local Rule E-1).

6. Integral Objects

- a) Artificial retaining walls and/or pilings when located within penalty areas.
- b) Bunker liners in their intended position.

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 “out of position” i.e. if, in the case of the first group, it has exceeded the time allowed determined by the Tournament Committee and, in the case of the second and following groups, if, in addition to having exceeded the time allowed, it has lost a starting interval behind the group in front. From the start of the timing, a player is deemed to have committed a “bad time” if he makes his stroke in more than 40 seconds.

At any time, if any player is timed by a referee taking more than 80 seconds to make a stroke, the player will be notified that he has incurred an excessive shot time and will be 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 begin when the referee has decided that it is the player’s turn to play and that they are able to play without interference or distraction.
- 2) Timing will cease when a group is back in position and players will be informed accordingly. Bad times will be carried forward throughout the competition.

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.

At the recording desk, **all players of the group will incur one penalty stroke to be added to their score on hole 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 are more than 10 minutes over the starting interval behind the group in front.

Note: The players may request that the Committee considers any mitigating circumstances. The Committee will give a ruling.

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

Published on April, 14th 2025

9. Suspension and Resumption of Play (Rule 5.7)

Immediate suspension for imminent danger: one prolonged note of a siren.

Suspension 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 suspension, all practice areas will be immediately closed until the Committee declares them open again. Players practicing on closed practice areas must immediately stop practicing or they will be disqualified. This provision also applies to players who have not yet started their round

10. Transportation

Players, caddies, team captains and advice givers 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 by the player or his caddie:

General Penalty for each hole during which there is a breach

If a breach occurs between play of 2 holes the penalty is applied to the next hole.

Penalty for breach by the team captain or the advice giver:

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 advice giver during a round will be carried forward throughout the tournament.

11. Advice in Team Competitions (Rule 24)

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

The captain and the advice giver must be identified to the Committee on the team composition form prior to the start of the competition.

If the captain or advice giver is a player, he may not give advice to a teammate other than his partner while playing (Rule 10.2). (Model Local Rules 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 final when it has been recorded by the Committee.

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.
- Not systematically replacing divots.
- Not raking footprints in bunkers.
- Not respecting the practice rules during the practice round.
- Not repairing ball-marks on the green.
- 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 material or cigarette butts on the course...

(b) Unacceptable language

Falling into this category any verbal manifestation disturbing the quietness which should usually 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 a mobile phone, etc.
- Throwing a club.
- Striking equipment in anger (with a club or by kicking).
- Damaging the course by slamming a club to the ground.
- Violently putting the flagstick back 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 their 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 upon themselves 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 when it interferes with another player's play.
- Deliberately not acting in accordance with the Rules and the spirit of the game, 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) :

Depending on the seriousness of the breach the Tournament Committee will have the option of applying the following penalties: one penalty stroke, general penalty or disqualification.

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

Depending on the seriousness of the breach and in consultation with the Tournament Committee, the Referee will have the option of applying the following penalties: warning, one penalty stroke, adjustment of the match score by deduction of one hole or disqualification.

Except for an–official warning, the application of the preceding penalties is the sole responsibility of the Committee or in Match Play of a referee mandated by the Committee.

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

If a breach happens between two holes, the penalty applies to 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 recommended 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 the event of a clear 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 people, even in their absence, may be summoned before the Tournament Committee, which may order them to leave the club. This decision will be notified to the Club Director who will have full authority to enforce it.

The Code of Conduct is in effect during any practice period 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.