

PERMANENT LOCAL RULES FOR FRENCH FEDERAL AMATEUR TOURNAMENTS

The following provisions apply to all ffgolf amateur tournaments and refer to the Rules of Golf in effect on 1 January 2023. Refer to the Official Guide for Model local Rules references.

1. Out of Bounds (Rule 18.2)

Beyond any walls defining the course boundaries.

A ball coming to rest beyond a road defining out of bounds is out of bounds, even if it rests on another part of the course. (Model Local Rule A-5).

Any closed gate attached to walls or fences defining out of bounds is part of the boundary object, and relief is not allowed from such a gate under Rules 15.2 or 16.1. However, an open gate is not considered 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)

If a ball last crossed the edge of a red penalty area that coincides with a course boundary and comes to rest in that penalty area, as an additional 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 defined by dotted or white or blue lines and/or stakes.
- (b) Any area of damaged ground (e.g. caused by spectators or a vehicle) considered abnormal by a referee (Model Local Rule F-4).
- (c) In the general area, seams of cut turf are treated as ground under repair. When taking relief, all seams within the same area of cut turf are considered the same seam. Interference does not exist for stance alone. If the seam interferes only with the player's stance, relief will be denied. (Model Local Rule F-7).
- (d) Gravel-filled drains.
- (e) Gullies/Ravines in bunkers.

b. Animal Hole:

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

c. Immovable Obstructions:

- (a) Areas bounded by white lines and tying into an immovable obstruction are treated as a single obstruction.
- (b) Landscaped or garden areas (and everything growing in them) surrounded by an immovable obstruction must be treated as a single obstruction.
- (c) Roads and paths surfaced with woodchip or mulch. Individual pieces of woodchip are loose impediments.
- (d) Irrigation pipes fixed to the ground are immovable obstructions. Interference does not exist if a pipe interferes only with the player's stance. Relief will be denied.

d. Immovable obstruction or Ground Under repair on or near a Putting Green:

Model Local Rule F-5.2 is in effect as follows:

The player may take relief under Rule 16.1b. The immovable obstruction must be:

1. On the player's line of play,
2. On or within two club-lengths of the putting green, and
3. Within two club lengths of the ball.

When both the ball and the immovable obstruction are in the general area, this local Rule only applies if the ball is in a part of the general area cut to fairway height or less.

When the immovable obstruction is on the putting green, this local Rule only applies if the ball is in a part of the general area cut to fairway height or less.

Interference under this local Rule applies to any movable obstruction and to any ground under repair identified as such by the Committee.

4. Animal not defined as a loose impediment near the ball

An animal not defined as a 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, it serves as an additional relief option. The Dropping Zone is a relief area (see Rule 14.3). A ball must be dropped in this dropping zone and come to rest within it (Model Local Rule E-1).

6. Integral Objects

- (a) Bunker liners between the sand and the soil when in their intended position.
- (b) Retaining walls and/or pilings when located within penalty areas.
- (c) Retaining walls, pilings, and artificial stacked turf when located on the faces of bunkers, though such objects are not part of the bunker.

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

The current lists of conforming driver heads and conforming golf balls are issued by R&A (see the *Equipment Rules* on [randa.org](http://www.randa.org)) (Model Local Rules G-1 and G-3).

Penalty for making a stroke with a non-conforming driver or ball: Disqualification.

8. Pace of Play (Rule 5.6)

a. Breach during a round:

Except in mitigating circumstances, a group may be timed when it is “out of position”:

- For the first group, if they exceed the time allowed by the Committee.
- For subsequent groups, if they exceed this time and have lost their starting intervals with the group in front.

From the start of timing, any stroke played in more than 40 seconds constitutes a “bad time”.

At any time, if a referee observes a player taking more than 80 seconds to play a stroke, an official warning will be issued. The player will also be informed that the Committee may, at any time, start individual timing, even if their group is not out of position.

Penalties for breach of Pace of Play:

1st bad time – Official warning from Referee and notification to the group that further bad times will be penalised.

2nd bad time – **One penalty stroke**

3rd bad time – Additional **General Penalty**

4th bad time – **Disqualification**

Notes:

- 1) Timing begins when the referee determines it is the player’s turn to play and the player can do so without interference or distraction.
- 2) Timing of a group ceases as soon as they are back in position, and the referee must inform the players.
- 3) Any player who has committed one or more bad times carries these infractions throughout the competition.

b. At Recording:

It is each group’s responsibility to complete their round within the allotted time. At recording, **all players in a group incur a one penalty stroke on hole No. 18 for a breach of Rule 5.6** (Unreasonable delay; Prompt Pace of Play):

- For the 1st group, if they have exceeded the allotted time by more than 10 minutes.
- For the following groups :
 - If the group have exceeded the allotted time by more than 10 minutes **AND**,
 - If the interval upon finishing with the group in front exceeds by more than 10 minutes the interval that existed at the start between the two groups.

Note: The Committee, after hearing from the players, may consider **mitigating circumstances** in very specific cases.

In federal stroke play events, "Ready Golf" recommendations apply.

9. Suspension and Resumption of Play (Rule 5.7)

Immediate suspension for imminent danger: one prolonged siren blast.

Suspension for a non-dangerous situation: three consecutive siren blasts.

Resumption of play: two consecutive siren blasts.

Upon immediate suspension, all practice areas are immediately closed. Player's training in closed practice areas must immediately cease their training, or face **disqualification**. This applies even to players who have not yet started their round.

10. Means of Transportation

During a round, a player, caddie, captain or advice giver must not ride on any motorized or non-motorized transportation unless authorized or subsequently approved by the Committee.

A player playing under stroke-and-distance, is authorized to use motorized transportation to travel to the spot where the previous stroke was made and/or return from it (Model Local Rule G-6).

Penalty for player or caddie breach:

General Penalty for each hole where the breach occurs.

If the breach occurs between two holes, the penalty applies to the next hole.

Penalty for captain or advice giver breach:

1st breach: official warning.

2nd breach: exclusion from the course.

3rd breach: **disqualification** of the team.

In a multi-round competition, any penalty incurred by the captain or advice giver will be carried forward to the remainder of the tournament.

11. Advice in Team Competitions (Rule 24)

The team captain is allowed to give advice. Each team may also designate an additional advice giver. These persons may give advice to team members under the conditions of Rule 24.4.

The captain and advice giver must be declared to the Committee on the team composition sheet before the start of the competition.

If the captain or advice giver is also a player, they cannot give advice to a teammate other than their partner while playing (Rule 10.2). (Model Local Rules H-2 and H-3).

12. Returning the Scorecard (Rule 3.3)

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

13. Results and Conclusion of a Competition

a. **Match play:** The result of a match is official when recorded by the Tournament Committee.

b. **Stroke play:** The result of a competition is final when the results have been officially announced.

14. Code of conduct (Rule 1.2)

The following breaches and penalties may apply:

(a) Neglecting the course:

Behaviors that **do not preserve the course integrity** include:

- Entering a no play zone where entry is prohibited.
- Failing to replace divots consistently.
- Failing to rake footprints in bunkers.
- Failing to follow practice rules during practice rounds.
- Failing to repair pitch-marks on the green.
- Failing to replace course equipment (stakes, signs, distance markers, etc.).
- Dropping the flagstick on the green without cushioning the fall.
- Littering.

(b) Inappropriate language:

Verbal outbursts that disrupt the expected calm of a golf round. Insults or threats may be considered serious misconduct and lead directly to **disqualification** and potentially disciplinary action before the ffgolf Disciplinary Committee.

Insulting a referee or Committee member may lead to immediate exclusion from the course.

(c) Dress Code:

Players are expected to follow with the host Club's dress code; otherwise, proper attire is required.

For interclub tournaments, team members should wear their Club uniforms.

In case of a manifest breach of the dress code, the player may be asked to leave the course.

(d) Misconduct:

Behaviors that have no place on a golf course, such as:

- Smoking in competitions where players under 18 may participate.
- Disturbing other players with noise, phone calls, etc.
- Throwing a club.
- Striking equipment in anger.
- Damaging the course with a club.
- Violently replacing the flagstick.
- Being under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances.

Serious misconduct may lead to the **general penalty** or **disqualification**, potentially followed by disciplinary proceedings before the FFGolf Disciplinary Committee.

Penalties related to the use of illegal substances do not preclude additional sanctions under the ffgolf anti-doping regulation.

Examples of serious misconduct include:

- Deliberately breaking equipment or course furniture (e.g.: tee markers).
- Deliberately causing serious damage to a putting green.
- Disagreeing with course setup and moving tee markers or boundary stakes on their own initiative.
- Throwing a club at another player or spectator.
- Deliberately distracting other players while they are playing.
- Removing loose impediments or movable obstructions to disadvantage another player after being asked to leave them in place.
- Repeatedly refusing to lift a ball resting when it interferes with another player in stroke play.
- Deliberately refusing to comply with the Rules or the spirit of the game to gain a significant advantage, even knowing a penalty applies.
- Committing physical assault.

Penalty for breach of the Code of Conduct:

- In stroke play (Sections a, b, c)

The Competition Committee may apply, depending on the severity of the breach, one of the following penalties: official warning, **one penalty stroke**, **general penalty**, or **disqualification**

- In match play (Sections a, b, c) :

The referee, in consultation with the Committee, will have the option to apply, depending on the severity of the breach, one of the following penalties: warning, **one penalty stroke**, adjustment of match score by deduction of a hole, or **disqualification**.

Except for an official warning, the application of penalties is the sole responsibility of the Committee or in match play, a referee appointed by the Committee.

In a multiple round tournament, any penalty incurred during one round applies throughout the tournament. Penalties for breach of the Code of conduct are cumulative.

If a breach occurs between two holes, the penalty applies to the hole just completed.

The player is responsible for the conduct of their caddie.

In case of violation of the code of conduct by:

- a captain or the advice giver, he may receive one of the following penalties: 1st breach: official warning, 2nd breach: exclusion from the course, 3rd breach: **disqualification** of the team.

- a spectator, accompanying person or parent: the individual may be summoned before the Tournament Committee, which may require them to leave the club even in their absence. This decision will be notified by the Club Director who has full authority to enforce it.

During all practice periods, including the official practice round, the Code of Conduct applies, and the penalties will be applied to the next hole of the competition. Failure to comply with the practice rules specified in the Vademecum is considered a breach of the code of conduct.

15. Committee decision

The determination of a serious breach of the Rules (such as playing from a wrong place) or of the Code of Conduct is a decision of the Committee, made by a majority of its members.

