

# FEDERAZIONE ITALIANA GOLF

## Local Rules and Terms of Competition Hard Card

The following Terms of Competition and Local Rules, together with any additional Local Rules and notes published by the Committee and any regulation in the Normativa Tecnica issued by the Italian Golf Federation, will apply to all National and International Championships organised by the Italian Golf Federation and played in accordance with the Rules of Golf approved by the R&A Rules Limited. For the full text of the Local Rules referenced below, please refer to the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf, effective from January 2023 and the Clarifications updated by the R&A.

**Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule is the General Penalty.  
Match Play: Loss of Hole. Stroke Play: Two Strokes**

### A – LOCAL RULES

The following Local Rules, together with any additions or amendments as published by the Italian Golf Federation at each golf course, will apply until further notice to all Tournaments under the auspices of the Rules and Championship Committee.

#### 1. OUT OF BOUNDS (RULE 18.2)

- a) A ball is out of bounds when it is beyond any wall defining a boundary.
- b) A ball that comes to rest beyond any road defining out of bounds is out of bounds even though it may come to rest on another part of the course: Model Local Rule A-5
- c) Closed Gates attached to boundary walls and fences: Model Local Rule F-26.

#### 2. PENALTY AREAS (RULE 17)

- a) **Opposite Side Same Distance Relief for Red Penalty Areas.**  
The additional Local Rules for each tournament will specify which (if any) red penalty areas have a same distance option on the opposite side: Model Local Rule B-2.1 applies only to the listed penalty areas.
- b) **Opposite Side Relief Where Ball Last Crossed Edge of Penalty Area Where the Edge and the Boundary of the Course Coincide.**  
Opposite side relief is available when a ball last crossed an edge of a red penalty area that coincides with a boundary under Model Local Rule B-2.2.
- c) **Dropping Zones for penalty areas.**  
Dropping Zones, labelled DZ and listed on the Additional Local Rules, are an additional option under Model Local Rule E-1.1. The dropping zone is a relief area under Rule 14.3. The dropping zone is a relief area under Rule 14.3, meaning that a ball must be dropped in and come to rest in the relief area.

#### 3. ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITIONS (RULE 16.1)

- a) **Ground Under Repair**
  - i. All areas bounded by white lines, including spectator crossing points, were marked.
  - ii. Seams of cut turf: Model Local Rule F-7.
  - iii. French drains (stone-filled drainage ditches).
  - iv. A hole made after removing a movable obstruction (such as stakes, signs, umbrellas, tables, chairs, etc.) in the general area may be treated as ground under repair by the Committee: Model Local Rule F-6 is in effect, prohibiting relief when only stance interference exists.
- b) **Immovable Obstructions**
  - i. White-lined areas and the immovable obstruction they tie into are treated as a single abnormal course condition.
  - ii. Landscaped garden areas (and everything growing in them) that are completely surrounded by an immovable obstruction are treated as a single abnormal course condition.
  - iii. Roads or paths surfaced with woodchips or mulch. Individual pieces of woodchips are loose impediments.
- c) **Temporary Water**  
Squeegee Policy for temporary water removal.  
If a player's ball lies on the putting green and there is interference by temporary water on the putting green, the player may take relief under Rule 16.1d or have her line of play squeegeed.  
The Committee may squeegee greens until players are nearby, and if conditions deteriorate, to keep play going, they may authorise a combination of all the above measures.  
Any squeegeeing should be done across the line of play, must extend a reasonable distance beyond the hole (i.e. at least one club-length) and may only be carried out by committee-authorised personnel.
- d) **Restriction on Relief from Stance in Animal Hole**  
Rule 16.1 is modified in this way: *Interference does not exist if the animal hole only interferes with the player's stance*: Model Local Rule F-6.
- e) **Yardage Spots or Lines**  
Painted lines or spots (or dots) 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 allowed under Rule 16.1. Interference does not exist if painted lines or spots (or dots) only interfere with the player's stance: Model Local Rule F-6.
- f) **Irrigation Pipes**  
Irrigation pipes (when not movable) are classed as immovable obstructions, but with no relief for stance: Model Local Rule F-6.
- g) **Animal Not Defined as Loose Impediment Near 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

#### 4. IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS CLOSE TO PUTTING GREENS

Model Local Rule F-5 is in effect but is modified as follows: *For a ball in the general area, relief is allowed only when both the ball and the immovable obstruction lie in an area cut to fairway height or less.*

Interference under this Local Rule also applies to:

- a) holes made by the removal of a movable obstruction when the hole is treated as an abnormal course condition by the Committee under section 3.a(iv).
- b) painted yardage dots or lines under section 3.e

#### 5. INTEGRAL OBJECTS

- a) Bunker liners in their intended position. An exposed liner may be treated as ground under repair by the Committee, but in such cases, Model Local Rule F-6 is in effect, prohibiting relief when only stance interference exists.
- b) Wires, cables, wrapping or other objects when closely attached to trees or other permanent objects.
- c) Artificial retaining walls and pilings when located within penalty areas.
- d) Artificial retaining walls and/or pilings when located on the edge of bunkers (these are part of the general area and are not part of the bunker)
- e) Artificial stacked turf faces above bunkers.

#### 6. PERMANENT OVERHEAD POWER LINE

Model Local Rule E-11 is in effect but only if it is known or virtually certain that a player's ball strikes a power line located in bounds and not the supporting pole; the stroke is cancelled and must be replayed (see Rule 14.6).



## 7. MOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS

Examples include but are not limited to: free-standing advertising boards situated away from teeing areas; drinks dispensers that are on wheels or easily lifted; all cameras and their tripods; TV microphones; free-standing scoring and data masts or tripods; and all crossing point indicators.

## 8. CLUBS AND BALLS

a) **List of Conforming Driver Heads:** Model Local Rule G-1.

**Penalty for making a stroke with a club in breach of this local rule:** Disqualification.

b) **Conforming Balls List:** Model Local Rule G-3.

**Penalty for making a stroke with a ball not on the current list in breach of this Local Rule:** Disqualification.

c) **Club Replacement:** Model Local Rule G-9 for the replacement of a club that is broken or significantly damaged, as revised in January 2026.

## 9. PACE OF PLAY POLICY (RULE 5.6b(3))

### a) During the Round

In the absence of mitigating circumstances, a group (or an individual or two players in the group) is liable to be timed if, at any time during the round, the (or the player) group is in excess of the time allowed, or in the case of second or subsequent groups, "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 other 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.

From the commencement of timing, the maximum time allocated for any shot is 40 seconds; 10 extra seconds are allowed for the first player to play:

- The tee shot at a par 3 hole;
- An approach shot;
- A chip or putt.

The time allowed to complete play of each hole and the entire round, is determined by the Committee and is published on the official notice board and/or on the player's scorecard, before the first round of the competition.

### Penalty for Breach of Condition:

1<sup>st</sup> breach: warning from the Rules Official ("Bad Time")

2<sup>nd</sup> breach: one stroke penalty (Loss of Hole in match play)

3<sup>rd</sup> breach: general penalty (two strokes penalty in stroke play; Loss of Hole in match play)

4<sup>th</sup> breach: disqualification in stroke play (disqualification in match play)

Penalty strokes will apply to the hole at which the breach occurred. If play is delayed between holes, the penalty will apply to the next hole.

### NOTES:

a) A player who is timed will have a bad time carried forward in the round, even if her group subsequently arrives back in position or within time. A player is not penalised if he has a second "Bad Time" before being informed of his first "Bad Time".

b) Players may be timed without being advised.

### b) In Returning Score Cards in Stroke Play

All groups must complete their round within the maximum completion time allowed by the Committee. It is the players' responsibility to observe this allowed maximum time (Rule 5.6b). The Committee, after evaluating all the circumstances and only if they couldn't time groups as described in point a) above, may add a **penalty of two strokes will apply to the 18<sup>th</sup> hole score for a breach of Rule 5.6b to ALL players:**

- of the first group, if they exceeded the maximum time allowed for 5 minutes or more.
- of any following group, if they exceeded the maximum time allowed for 5 minutes or more, and if they exceeded 5 minutes or more, the starting interval behind the group in front.

## 10. STARTING ROUND AND STOPPING PLAY (RULES 5.3a and 5.7)

a) The official time is displayed on the clock at the starting tee, or as otherwise provided by the Committee.

b) Model Local Rule J-1 is in effect, and the following signals will be used to suspend and resume play:

**Immediate Stop/Dangerous Situation:** one prolonged note of the siren.

**Normal non-dangerous stop:** three consecutive short notes of the siren.

**Resume Play:** two consecutive short notes of the siren.

When play is stopped in a dangerous situation, **all practice areas are immediately closed.**

## 11. PRACTICE (RULE 5)

### a) Practice Before or Between Rounds in Stroke Play

Rule 5.2b is modified as follows:

*A player must not practice, roll a ball or rub the surface of the putting green on the competition course before or between rounds, but may practice on the designated practice areas and may practice putting or chipping on or near their first teeing area:* Model Local Rule I-1.2

### b) Practice During Round in Stroke Play

Rule 5.5b is modified in this way:

*Between the play of two holes, a player must not make any practice stroke on or near the putting green of the hole just completed or test the surface of that putting green by rubbing the putting green or rolling a ball.* Model Local Rule I-2

**Penalty for breach of Local Rule:** See penalty statement in Rule 5.2.

## 12. DISTANCE-MEASURING DEVICES (DMDs)

The use of DMDs is limited to "Range Finders" lasers (watches or mobile apps are prohibited). In case of doubt on conformity, please contact the Committee.

**Penalty for breach of Local Rule:** See penalty statement in Rule 4.3

## 13. GREEN READING MATERIAL RESTRICTIONS

Only approved materials may be used (Model Local Rule G-11), and include:

- Committee-approved yardage books.
- Committee-approved pin positions sheets.
- Maps of the competition course should be no larger than A4-sized paper.

**Penalty for breach of Local Rule:**

1<sup>st</sup> Breach: General Penalty

2<sup>nd</sup> Breach: Disqualification

## 14. TRANSPORTATION POLICY

*During a round, a player or caddie must not ride on any form of motorised transportation except as authorised or later approved by the Committee (a player who plays under penalty of stroke and distance is always authorised):* Model Local Rule G-6

**Penalty for breach of this Local Rule:** General Penalty for each hole during which there is a breach. A breach between holes applies to the next hole.

## 15. PROHIBITION OF USE OF AUDIO AND VIDEO DEVICES

*During a round, a player must not listen to or watch content of any nature on a personal audio or video device:* Model Local Rule G-8

**Penalty for breach of Local Rule:** See penalty statement in Rule 4.3.

## B – TERMS OF COMPETITION

### 16. ELIGIBILITY

Players must meet the eligibility requirements provided to be admitted to a Competition.

(See the General Conditions of Competition and the Specific Conditions issued in the current *Normativa Tecnica* and/or in the Entry Form for the relevant Tournament).

**NOTE:** At any time, if it is discovered that a player does not meet the eligibility provisions at the closing date for entries, he will be immediately removed from the results (even after the Competition is closed).

### 17. HOW TO DECIDE TIES

See the current *Normativa Tecnica* issued by the Italian Golf Federation.

### 18. RECORDING AREA, RETURNING OF SCORECARD

The Recording Area may include, but is not limited to: temporary buildings, tents or permanent rooms. Others may be defined on the Official Notice Board. A scorecard is returned when a player has physically left the recording area.

### 19. SCORING IN STROKE PLAY

Model Local Rule L-1 is in effect and modifies the penalty for a missing signature(s) under Rule 3.3b(2).

### 20. RESULT OF MATCH – COMPETITION CLOSED

**a) Match Play:** The result of a match is deemed “officially announced” when the result of the match or the pairings for the next turn of play have been recorded on the official board and/or the website [www.federgolf.it](http://www.federgolf.it)

**b) Stroke Play:** The result of the competition is deemed officially announced, and the competition is closed, when the final results sheet has been recorded on the official board and/or the website [www.federgolf.it](http://www.federgolf.it)

**NOTE:** In the event of a play-off, the tournament is final when the play-off scores have been validated by the Committee

**c) For Stroke-Play qualifying followed by Match-Play:** see Rule 20.2e(2).

### 21. ANTI-DOPING

See the current *Normativa Tecnica* issued by the Italian Golf Federation.

### 22. CODE OF CONDUCT (Rule 1.2b)

In addition to what is stated in Rule 1.2a regarding the standards of player conduct, the Italian Golf Federation has adopted a code of conduct as an addendum to the current *Normativa Tecnica*.

#### **Penalty for Breach of Code of Conduct:**

1<sup>st</sup> breach: (during the entire competition) warning from the Rules Official or a Committee Member

2<sup>nd</sup> breach: (during the entire competition) one stroke penalty

3<sup>rd</sup> breach: (during the entire competition) general penalty (two strokes penalty in stroke play; Loss of Hole in match play)

4<sup>th</sup> breach: (during the entire competition) disqualification in stroke play (disqualification in match play)

**NOTE:** In case of serious breach (i.e. abusive language towards a Rules Official or a Committee Member, or for endangering another person), the Committee may disqualify the player for serious misconduct under Rule 1.2a. The player will also be subordinate to the Disciplinary Regulation (*Regolamento di Giustizia*) of the Italian Golf Federation.

### **THE FOLLOWING TERMS OF COMPETITION APPLY ONLY TO TEAM COMPETITIONS:**

#### **23. ADVICE IN TEAM COMPETITIONS**

In accordance with the Model Local Rule H-2, each team may appoint one person (Team Advisor), who is allowed to give advice to members of that team and to whom team members are allowed to ask for advice. Such person, who is not an outside influence as provided by Model Local Rule H-4, but is part of the player's side, must be communicated to the Committee during the Captains' Meeting.