

ALBERTA GOLF STANDARD LOCAL RULES

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2011

PLAY is governed by the current RCGA Rules of Golf and its decisions and where applicable, by the following Local Rules and definitions, subject to changes, additions or deletions for particular championships by the Rules of Golf Committee of Alberta Golf and may be amended by supplementary local rules.

Local rules of the host club shall not apply.

Unless otherwise provided, penalty for breach of a Local Rule is 2 strokes in Stroke Play and loss of hole in Match Play.

1. **TIME OF STARTING** (Rule 6-3a): All players in a group must be present and ready to play at the time laid down by the Committee. Penalty for breach: **DISQUALIFICATION**. However, if a player arrives at the starting point, ready to play, within 5 minutes after the group's starting time, a penalty of 2 strokes in Stroke Play or loss of hole in Match Play will be applied.
2. **SCORE CARDS** must be returned to the Committee as soon as possible upon completion of play. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.
3. **PRACTICING: Stroke play competitions** – A player must not play any practice stroke on or near a putting green of the hole last played. If a practice stroke is played on or near the putting green of the hole last played, the player shall incur a penalty of two strokes at the next hole, except that in the case of the last hole of the round, he incurs the penalty at that hole.
4. **GOLF BALLS / GOLF CLUBS**: Only golf balls and golf clubs which have been tested on apparatus approved by the RCGA and found to conform with the current RCGA list, may be used. A list of conforming balls and conforming clubs is available on the RCGA website. Penalty for breach: **DISQUALIFICATION**.
5. **DISTANCE MEASURING DEVICES**: - For all play, a player may obtain distance information by using a device that measures distance only. If, during a *stipulated round*, a player uses a distance-measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his play (e.g., gradient, wind speed, temperature, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 14-3, for which the penalty is disqualification, regardless of whether any such additional function is actually used. Sharing of distance information with fellow competitors is not advice.
6. **ELECTRONIC DEVICES**: The use of cell phones, audible beepers, mp3 players, ipods, or any other electronic device during a stipulated round is strictly prohibited (except as set out below). If carried by the player or located in the player's bag such devices but must be turned off before the start of and at all times during the stipulated round.

Exception: During a stipulated round, a player may turn on and refer to an electronic device only to check the Rules of Golf or to assist the player in determining whether there is a danger from lightning. Any reference to an electronic device during a stipulated round must be reported to the Committee as soon as practicable. If he does so and the Committee considers his reason satisfactory there is no penalty, otherwise the Player incurs the general penalty for breach of the Standard Local Rules.

7. **ROADS AND PATHS**, which are artificially surfaced are immovable obstructions. Any severely worn areas touching or in close proximity to such roads and paths, whether painted with white lines or not, are considered to be part of the immovable obstruction. Relief may be taken in accordance with Rule 24-2B.

8. **CULTIVATED TREE BASINS** and shrubs are considered "through the green" unless such basins contain crushed rock, plastic or metal liners or the like, in which case they are considered obstructions (Rule 24-2). (Immovable Obstruction)
9. **TREE WRAPPINGS** closely attached to trees are not obstructions. No free relief.
10. **GROUND UNDER REPAIR:** Relief must be taken from flowerbeds.
11. **LIFTING AN EMBEDDED BALL:** Through the green, a ball which is embedded in its own pitch-mark in the ground, other than sand, may be lifted without penalty, cleaned and dropped as near as possible to where it lay but not nearer the hole. The ball when dropped must first strike a part of the course through the green.
12. **ELEVATED POWER LINES AND SUPPORT WIRES:** If a ball strikes such a line, the stroke **must** be cancelled and a ball played, without penalty, from where the previous stroke was played.
13. **SUSPENSION OF PLAY FOR A POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS SITUATION:**
 - a. **DANGEROUS SITUATION - SUSPEND PLAY:** One prolonged horn/siren note. When play is suspended for a dangerous situation PLAYERS SHALL DISCONTINUE PLAY IMMEDIATELY and shall not thereafter resume play until the committee has ordered a resumption of play.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF THIS LOCAL RULE: DISQUALIFICATION

All practice areas shall be closed during suspension for a dangerous situation and shall remain closed until the Committee has declared them open for use.

- b. **OTHER SITUATION - SUSPEND PLAY:** Several consecutive short horn/siren notes. Rule 6-8b will apply, "When play is suspended by the Committee, if the players in a match or group are between the play of two holes, they must not resume play until the Committee has ordered a resumption of play. If they have started play of a hole, they may discontinue play immediately or continue play of the hole, provided they do so without delay. If the players choose to continue play of the hole, they are permitted to discontinue play before completing it. In any case, play must be discontinued after the hole is completed. The players must resume play when the Committee has ordered a resumption of play. **Penalty for breach of Rule 6-8b: Disqualification.**
- c. **RESUME PLAY:** Two (2) consecutive short horn/siren notes.

NOTE:

Rule 6-8 allows an individual player to discontinue play if the player believes there is danger from lightning. If the player discontinues play without specific permission from the Committee, the player shall report to the Committee as soon as practicable. If the player does so and the Committee considers the reason satisfactory, the player incurs no penalty. Otherwise, the player shall be disqualified.