



2018 Local Rules and Conditions of Competition

The rules of the United States Golf Association govern play, as modified by the GProTour. The following Local Rules and Conditions of Competition apply and may be found in the current Appendix I of the USGA Rules of Golf as referenced on the page numbers below. See the applicable competition's "Notice to Competitors" for additional Definitions, Local Rules and Conditions of Competition.

Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule or Condition – Two Strokes.

Section A – Local Rules

1. Out of Bounds – Rule 27

Defined by the inside edge of white stakes at GROUND Level, the inside edge of all perimeter at GROUND LEVEL, the inside edge of all paved public roads and the inside edge of white lines and dots tying to any of the previously listed areas. 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.

2. Water Hazards and Lateral Water Hazards – Rule 26

Water hazards and identified by yellow stakes and defined by yellow lines. Lateral water hazards and identified by red stakes and defined by red lines and include unmarked drainage ditches and other open water sources. When a lateral water hazard is defined on one side, it is deemed to extend to infinity. When water hazards and lateral hazards are bounded by out of bounds, the hazard margin extends to and coincides with the out of bounds line.

3. Abnormal Ground Conditions – Rule 25

Ground Under Repair (GUR):

- areas completely encircled with white lines and identified with variations of "GProTour, GPT, GT"
- French drains filled with stones
- Seams of cut turf. Page 129
- Fire ant mounds or beds
- In a Water Hazard, relief for fire ant mounds or beds is provided by Decision I-4/10
- Turf plugs on putting greens have the same status as old plug holes – Rule 16-1c.

4. Embedded Ball Through the Green – Page 127

5. Immovable Obstructions – Rule 24

- White lined areas tying into obstructions and deemed to have the same status as the obstruction and not Ground Under Repair.
- Landscaped garden areas completely encircled by an obstruction are part of the obstruction
 - When railroad ties, curbing, or the like adjoin artificially surfaced roads or paths, they are deemed to be part of the road of path.

6. Immovable Obstructions Close to Putting Green

Relief from interference by an immovable obstruction may be taken under Rule 24-2

7. Integral Parts of the Course: No Relief Granted.

- Wrappings, wires, cables and other objects when closely attached to trees.
- Artificial walls and or pilings when located within water hazards
- Artificial walls and or pilings when used to define the margin of bunkers are through the green
- Sand paths/roads and the like

8. Stones in Bunkers Rule 24-1

Stones in bunkers are movable obstructions. Page 130

9. Temporary Obstructions – Pages 131-134

10. Doubt as to Procedure – Rule 3-3

Only members of the Rules Committee are authorized to render a Rules Decision. If in doubt as to the correct procedure and a member of the rules committee is not present, a player may play a second ball in accordance with Rule 3-3 and report the facts to the Committee upon completion of the round. Failure to report the facts to the Committee (even if the scores are the same with both balls) will result in disqualification.

11. Scoring Area/Scorecard – Rule 6-6

All players are required to return their scorecards to the scoring area immediately upon completion of their round. Players are required to remain in the scoring area until all players in their group have returned their scorecards. The scoring area will be determined by the Rules Committee and will be defined by a room, tent or set location. A player's scorecard is deemed returned to the Committee when the player has exited the defined scoring area with both feet.

12. Local Rule for Accidental Movement of a Ball On The Putting Green

"Rules [18-2](#), [18-3](#) and [20-1](#) are modified as follows:

When a player's ball lies on the putting green, there is no penalty if the ball or ball-marker is accidentally moved by the player, his partner, his opponent, or any of their caddies or



equipment. The moved ball or ball-marker must be replaced as provided in Rules 18-2, 18-3 and 20-1. This Local Rule applies only when the player's ball or ball-marker lies on the putting green and any movement is accidental.

Note: If it is determined that a player's ball on the putting green was moved as a result of wind, water or some other natural cause such as the effects of gravity, the ball must be played as it lies from its new location. A ball-marker moved in such circumstances is replaced."

Section B – Conditions of Competition

1. Specifications of Equipment.

- a) List of Conforming Driver Heads – Pages 137 – 138.
Penalty for making a stroke with a club in Breach of Competition – Disqualification
- b) Groove and Punch Mark Specifications – Decision 4-1/1.
Penalty for making a stroke with a club in Breach of Competition – Disqualification
- c) List of Conforming Golf Balls (Note to Rule 5-1) Pages 138-139
- d) One Ball Conditions – Pages 138-139

2. Time of Starting. Rule 6-3a. Page 48.

Players will not be called to assigned tee times

3. Pace of Play (Note 2 Rule 6-7) Page 50-51

4. Suspension of Play Due to Dangerous Situations.

(Note to Rule 6-8b) Pages 140-141

- a) Discontinue Play Immediately: One prolonged signal note
- b) Discontinue Play: Three Consecutive short signal notes
- c) Resume Play: Two Short signal notes
Note: all practice areas shall be closed during a suspension for a dangerous situation until the Rules Committee has declared them open.

5. Practice – Rule 7-1b

Prior to the stipulated round, a player may practice on the designated practice areas. Practice between competition holes is prohibited (Note 2 to Rule 7-2) Page 141

6. Cart Policy

Players MUST ride if an event is designated a riding event. Groups will be limited to two (2) carts per group. Should a player have a caddy or spectator, they may ride with their player. In the event that there are more caddies/spectators that seats available, it is the decision of the group who will ride. The tour staff and officials will have no part in this decision.

7. How to Decide Ties.

A tie for the overall championship shall be decided by a hole by hole playoff. The Rules Committee will determine the time, starting hole and hole progression for any required playoff. Players are responsible for making themselves available according to Rule 6-3.

8. Close of Competition

The competition shall be deemed to have closed when all scorecards have been approved by the committee, and the prize has been awarded to the winner

9. Mobile Electronic Device

GProTour wants to maintain a progressive attitude towards technology. As we will have live scoring at events, for the first time we will allow players to check leaderboards with their mobile devices. Players are only allowed to use their devices for contacting tour officials, emergency calls or leaderboard results. If a player has been deemed to use their device for personal calls, text messages, photos, GPS Apps or to gain an unfair advantage it will result in their disqualification.

10. Conduct

By signing an official entry form or registering online, the player agrees to abide by the prescribed Rules of Conduct. Violations of the Rules of Conduct may result in a loss of playing privileges.

11. Distance – Measuring Devices

Range finders will be allowed at all GProTour events providing that they do not have the ability to measure other conditions.

ELECTRONIC MEASURING DEVICES: "a player may obtain distance information by use of a distance-measuring device. If, during a *stipulated round*, a player uses a distance-measuring device to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his play (e.g., elevation changes, wind speed, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 14-3.

What this means for rangefinders: players may use rangefinders that have a slope function on them but must have the function disabled for all competitive rounds or be in breach of Rule 14-3. A multi-functional device, such as a smartphone or PDA, may be used as a distance-measuring device, but it must not be used to gauge or measure other conditions where doing so would be a breach of Rule 14-3.