

2026 LOCAL RULES AND TERMS OF THE COMPETITION



Play is governed by the Golf Canada Rules of Golf (effective January 2023), and, where applicable, by the following Local Rules and Terms of the Competition, subject to changes, additions or deletions for particular championships and qualifying rounds. The Terms of the Competition will be available several days in advance of the event. The complete text of Local Rules may be found in the Golf Canada Official Guide to the Rules of Golf (effective January 2023).

Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for a breach of a Local Rule is the **General Penalty**.

Match play – Loss of hole; Stroke play – Two strokes

1. **Out of Bounds (Rule 18.2)** – Defined by the line between the course-side points at ground level of white dots, lines and posts of fences defining out of bounds. A ball is out of bounds when it is beyond any wall defining the boundary of the course.

Closed gates that are attached to boundary walls and fences are part of the boundary object. Relief is not allowed from such a gate under Rules 15.2 and 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 is in effect.

2. Clubs and Balls

- a. List of Conforming Driver Heads: Model Local Rule G-1 is in effect.
Penalty for making a stroke with a club in breach of this Local Rule: **Disqualification**.
- b. Groove and Punch Mark Specifications: Model Local Rule G-2 is in effect.
Penalty for making a stroke with a club in breach of this Local Rule: **Disqualification**.
- c. List of Conforming Golf Balls: Model Local Rule G-3 is in effect.
Penalty for making a stroke with a ball in breach of this Local Rule: **Disqualification**.
- d. Replacing Club that is Broken or Significantly Damaged – **Revised** Model local Rule G-9 effective January 1, 2026, is in effect.
Penalty for Breach of Local Rule – See Rule 4.1b.

Note: An updated List of Conforming Clubs and Balls is available at <https://www.golfcanada.ca/rules-of-golf/>.

3. **Caddies** – Rule 10.3a is modified in this way: A player must not have another player in the competition, who has played or will play in the same round, as their caddie during a round.

The player gets the **General Penalty** for each hole during which there is a breach of this Local Rule. If the breach occurs between the play of two holes, it applies to the next hole.

Local rule H-1 is in effect; Golf Québec prohibits the use of a caddie for any junior competition. If a junior is playing in an amateur competition, he may use a caddie.

4. **Pace of Play (Rule 5.6b(3))** – Golf Québec's Group Pace of Play Policy is in effect at all amateur competitions and will be communicated prior to the start of the competition. The full policy is available at <https://www.golfquebec.org/en/pages.asp?id=77> in the Golf Québec

Tournament Office and at the starting tee.

Note: Rule 5.6a (Unreasonable Delay of Play) is still applicable.

5. **Stopping and Resuming Play (Rule 5.7)** – Model Local Rule J-1 is in effect as follows:
 - a. **Immediate suspension** (Dangerous Situation): One prolonged note of the air horn.
 - b. **Normal Suspension** (Non-Dangerous situation): Three short notes of the air horn.
 - c. **Resume Play**: Two short notes of the air horn.

Note: During an immediate suspension for a dangerous situation, all practice areas are closed until the Tournament Committee declares them open. Players who practise on closed practice areas will be asked to stop. Players who fail to do so will be subject to penalties under the Code of Conduct.

6. **Practice (Rule 5.2b and 5.5b)**
 - a. **Before or between rounds in Stroke Play** – Model Local Rule I-1.2 is in effect and Rule 5.2b is modified in this way: A player must not practise on the competition course (except on or near the first teeing area or any practice area) on the day of a competition or between rounds.

Penalty for first breach: **General Penalty** (applied to the player's first hole).

Penalty for second breach: **Disqualification**.

- b. **Between holes in Stroke Play** – Model Local Rule I-2 is in effect and 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.

7. **Transportation** – Model Local Rule G-6 is in effect and is modified as follows: During a round, players or caddies must not ride on any form of motorized transportation unless authorized or later approved by the Tournament Rules Committee. A player proceeding under a stroke and distance penalty is always authorized to use motorized transportation for that purpose. **A player may not use an electric pushcart when caddies are not allowed in a competition.**

The player gets the **General Penalty** for each hole during which there is a breach of this Local Rule. If the breach occurs between the play of two holes, it applies to the next hole.

8. **Abnormal Course Conditions (Including Immovable Obstructions)**

Ground under repair – Rule 16.1 includes:

- a. Areas defined by white lines.
- b. Drainage ditches filled with stones (French drains).
- c. Seams of Cut Turf – Model Local Rule F-7 is in effect. Interference exists if a player's ball lies in or touches a seam of cut turf or a seam interferes with the player's area of intended swing. However, interference does not exist if the seam only interferes with the player's stance. All seams within the area of cut turf are treated as the same seam in taking relief.
- d. Immovable Obstructions – White-lined areas of ground under repair and the artificially surfaced road or path or other identified obstruction they tie into are treated as a single abnormal course condition when taking relief under Rule 16.1.

9. **Immovable Obstructions Close to Putting Greens** – Model Local Rule F-5.2 is in effect.

For a ball in the general area, relief may be taken under Rule 16.1b when both the ball and obstruction lie in an area cut to fairway height or less. The ball must be within two club lengths of the obstruction and the obstruction must be located:

- a. On or within two club lengths of the putting green, and;
- b. On the player's line of play.

10. **Wood Chips and Mulch** – Wood chips and mulch are loose impediments.
11. **Integral Objects** – The following are integral objects from which free relief is not allowed:
 - a. Cables, wires, wrappings and other similar objects closely attached to trees like tree protection material, irrigation bags, ornaments.
 - b. Artificial retaining walls and/or pilings when located within penalty areas or which are adjacent to the edge of bunkers, and
 - c. bunker liners in their intended position. An exposed bunker liner may be treated as ground under repair by the Committee. **However**, interference by a bunker liner does not exist if the bunker liner only interferes with a player's stance.
11. **Animals Near Ball** – Model Local Rule E-13 is in effect. An animal that is not defined as a loose impediment and is touching or near a player's ball may be removed. If the ball moves, there is no penalty, and the ball must be replaced.
12. **Temporary Immovable Obstructions** – Model Local Rule F-23 is in effect. Temporary Immovable Obstructions include, but are not limited to, starting, scoring, and pace of play tents, and publicity objects.
13. **Penalty Areas (Rule 17)** – When a red penalty area is defined on only one side, it is deemed to extend to infinity. When a red penalty area adjoins a boundary, the penalty area edge extends to and coincides with the boundary.
14. **No Play Zone (NPZ)** – All flowerbeds and turf/tree nurseries outside of a penalty area are deemed to be in the general area. The player **MUST** take relief if the ball lies in the NPZ or the NPZ interferes with the player's area of intended stance or area of intended swing under Rules 16.1f and 17.1e.
15. **Anti-Doping** – Players are required to comply with and are bound by the Golf Québec Anti-Doping Policy, as published on the Golf Québec website or shared in any communication in advance or at the golf course.
16. **Code of Conduct (Rule 1.2)** – Golf Québec has adopted a Local Rule under Rule 1.2b setting standards of player conduct on the golf course during play at all competitions. The full policy is available online <https://www.golfquebec.org/en/pages.asp?id=77>, in the Golf Québec Tournament Office and at registration.

The Golf Québec Tournament Rules Committee may assess any or all of the following penalties based on the severity and frequency of the violation(s):

- Warning
- One penalty stroke
- General Penalty
- **Disqualification**

Note: Under Rule 1.2a, the Committee may **disqualify** a player for serious misconduct for acting contrary to the spirit of the game.

17. Scorecard Responsibilities

a. Scorecard Returned – A player's scorecard has been returned to the Committee when the player has completely exited the defined scoring area unless the player, prior to leaving, verbally informs the Scoring Official of their intention to leave the scoring area and receives permission to do so.

b. Missing Player or Marker Certification – Model Local Rule L-1 is in effect and Rule 3.3b(2) is modified in this way – If a player returns a scorecard without the hole scores being certified either by the player, the marker, or both, the player gets the **General Penalty**. The penalty applies to the last hole of the player's round.

18. When Result of Competition is Final – The competition is final when the trophy has been presented to the winner, or in the absence of an awards ceremony, when all scores have been validated in the scoring system and approved by the Committee.

RULES COMMITTEE – GOLF QUÉBEC
Revised on March 2026