

SADGA OPEN SERIES Hard Card

Local Rules and Terms of Competition HARD CARD

The following Local Rules and Terms of Competition have been formulated after consultation with the Rules of Golf Committee of R&A Rules Limited. In the event of a dispute arising as to the meaning of any Rule of Golf or local rule, the Rule will be interpreted according to the English edition of the Rules of Golf or the SADGA Hard Card.

Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a local rule is the General Penalty.

SECTION A – LOCAL RULES

All Tournaments under the auspices of SADGA will be played in accordance with the Rules of Golf as approved by the R&A Rules limited, including Rule 25 for Players with Disabilities, the Terms of the Competition, the Hard Card applicable to the series and any Additional Local Rules for a specific event as issued by the Committee. For the full text of the Local Rules referenced below, please refer to the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf effective from January 2019 and the Clarifications updated quarterly by the R&A, available at www.randa.org (Model Local Rules hereafter MLR)

1. **OUT OF BOUNDS: RULE 18.2**

- a) Out of bounds is defined by the line between the course-side points at ground level of white stakes and fence posts. MLR A-1
- b) A ball is out of bounds when it is beyond any wall defining the boundary of the course. MLR A-2.2
- c) A ball coming to rest on or beyond a road which is defined as out of bounds, is out of bounds, even if it comes to rest on another part of the course that is in bounds for other holes. MLR A-3.
- d) In the case of there being two boundary fences, the innermost fence shall define the boundary.

2. **PENALTY AREAS: RULE 17.1**

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. MLR B-2.1 applies only to the penalty areas that are listed.

b) **Opposite side Relief Where Ball Last Crossed Edge of Penalty Area Where The Edge and the Boundary of the Course Coincide.**

When a player's ball last crossed the edge of the penalty area where the edge of the penalty area and a boundary of the course coincide, that edge is deemed red and opposite side relief is available under MLR B-2.1 as modified by MLR B-2.2

c) **Dropping Zones for Penalty Areas**

Where a dropping zone is marked for a penalty area, it is an additional option under penalty of one stroke. 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. **EMBEDDED BALL: RULE 16.3**

MLR F-2.2 is in effect and Rule 16.3 is modified as follows: "Free relief is not allowed when a ball is embedded in any stacked turf face above a bunker".

4. **ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITIONS: RULE 16.1**

a) **Ground Under Repair**

- i. All areas bounded by white lines.
- ii. Seams of Cut Turf: MLR F-7 is in effect.
- iii. French drains (stone-filled drainage ditches) outside penalty areas.
- iv. For holes remaining after removing movable obstructions in part of the general area, free relief is available for the lie of the ball or area of intended swing, but there is no relief for interference to the stance.

b) Immovable Obstructions

- i. White lined areas and the immovable obstruction they tie into, are treated as a single abnormal course condition. MLR F-3.1.
- 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. MLR F-3.3.
- iii. Mats that are secured and all ramps covering cables (anything which is secured or fastened is not considered “readily movable” if it has to be unfastened to be moved).
- iv. Roads or paths surfaced with woodchips or mulch. Individual pieces of woodchips are loose impediments.

c) Temporary Water: Squeegee removal Policy. MLR J-2.

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 authorize 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 authorized personnel.

5. IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS CLOSE TO PUTTING GREENS

MLR F-5 is in effect but is modified as follows:

“For a ball in the general area, relief is allowed only when:

- i. *both the ball and the immovable obstruction lie in an area cut to fairway height or less;*
- ii. *the obstruction must be within two club-lengths of the putting green;*
- iii. *the obstruction must be on the players line of play and;*
- iv. *the ball must be within two club-lengths of the obstruction”.*

6. INTEGRAL OBJECTS:

- a) Bunker liners in their intended position.
- 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) Floating sponsor displays/signs when in penalty areas (no line-of-sight relief allowed). Wires and cables anchoring them are temporary cables (see point 10, Temporary Immovable Obstructions).
- e) Any closed gate attached to a boundary object.

7. PERMANENT OVERHEAD POWER LINE:

MLR E-11 is in effect but only for a ball which strikes a power line located in bounds and not the supporting pole; stroke is cancelled and must be replayed.

8. TEMPORARY IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS (TIO): MLR F-22 and F-23

Examples include but are not limited to: flight scope fixed TV poles, TV camera towers, leader boards, all clocks, advertising boards fixed to other temporary immovable obstructions or advertising boards and hole number distance indicators that are **situated around teeing areas.**

- a) **Dropping Zone Policy:** In the general area, when a player’s ball lies in or on a TIO or so close to the TIO that it interferes with the stance or area of intended swing and relief is required, the player may:
 - Proceed under any of the options under the TIO local rule or Rule 16.1, or;
 - If dropping zones have been marked, as an additional option, the player may drop the original ball or another ball, without penalty, in the nearest dropping zone (this is true even if the dropping zone is nearer the hole). 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 dropping zone.
- b) **Either side relief.** The additional local rules for each tournament will specify which TIO’s have an either side option. Either side relief is restricted to line-of-sight relief only and is not available when the player chooses to operate under Rule 16.1.

9. **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.

10. **CLUBS AND BALLS:**

- a) **Club Replacement:** MLR G-9 for replacement of a club that is broken or significantly damaged is in effect.
- b) **List of conforming Driver Heads:** MLR G-1 is in effect.
Penalty for making a stroke with a club in breach of this local rule: Disqualification.
- c) **Groove and Punch Mark Specification:** MLR G-2 is in effect.
Penalty for making a stroke with a club in breach of this local rule: Disqualification.
- d) **Conforming Balls List:** MLR G-3 is in effect.
Penalty for making a stroke with a ball not on current list in breach of this local rule: Disqualification.

11. **PACE OF PLAY POLICY: RULE 5.6b(3)**

Players should play at a good pace in accordance with Rule 5.6 of the Rules of Golf.

It is a group's responsibility to keep up with the group in front and this will be monitored by the Rules Officials. If a group is, without reason, more than the starting interval behind the group in front of them and over their allotted time, all players in the group may be subject to the following penalties:

1st Offence: Warning

2nd Offence: 1 Stroke penalty (1 point deducted from total for Stableford)

3rd Offence: 2 Stroke penalty (2 points deducted from total for Stableford)

Subsequent Offence: Disqualification

12. **PLAY SUSPENSION: RULE 5.7**

When play is suspended by the Tournament Committee, players must discontinue play and not resume play until the Tournament Committee has ordered a resumption of play.

The following signals are in force:

Discontinue play immediately: one prolonged note of siren. (No further playing, mark position of the ball and make your way to the clubhouse) If a player fails to discontinue play immediately, he is disqualified, unless circumstances warrant waiving a penalty as provided in Rule 5.7b.

Discontinue play: three consecutive notes of siren, repeated. (Players may finish playing of a hole, when in between holes. Players may not start play of the next hole, until play is resumed by The Committee)

Resume play: two short notes of siren, repeated.

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

13. **PRACTICE: RULE 5**

Practice on the competition course on any day of, or between rounds of the tournament is prohibited. The penalty for breach of this modified rule 5.2 is the general penalty for the first breach and disqualification for a second breach.

Note: All recognized practice areas within the bounds of the course may be used by players for practice on any day of the competition.

14. DISTANCE MEASURING DEVICES: RULE 4.3a

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 4.3a(1).

15. CODE OF CONDUCT: Rule 1.2b

A Code of Conduct, with penalties for a breach of its standards is adopted by the Committee. See separate document displayed on the SADGA website. The submission of a signed, completed entry form will indicate that a player has read and accepted the current Code of Conduct. It is the responsibility of players to know and comply with dress regulations stipulated by the host club and SADGA.

SECTION B – TERMS OF COMPETITION

16. DECIDING TIES AND COUNT-OUT METHODS:

In the event of a tie for the winner of the Stroke Play Divisions (at regional events or the Final) there will be a sudden death play-off. The short course for a sudden death play-off will be posted on the Tournament Noticed Board. If the play-off involves more than two players, those other than the winner, will be deemed to have tied for second place irrespective of their scores in the play-off.

If the playing off a sudden death play-off or its continuation is considered by the Tournament Committee to be impractical, for any reason, then the winner of an event or the trophy will be shared.

All other ties will be decided in accordance with the count out procedures detailed below:

- Last 18 holes
- In the event of a further tie, the last 9 holes of the first round
- In the event of a further tie, the previous 6 holes, then the previous 3 holes, of the last round.

17. RECORDING AREA, SCORECARD RETURNED:

The location of recording area will be detailed in the additional local rules for each tournament. A scorecard will be deemed returned when a player has **completely left (with both feet)** the recording area. Score recorders are part of “The Committee” as defined in the Rules of Golf.

18. RESULTS OF THE COMPETITION – COMPETITION CLOSED:

The results of the Tournament are officially announced and the competition closed at commencement of the prize giving ceremony.

19. DRUG FREE SPORT:

A player shall not knowingly make use of any drug to enhance his/her performance. The attention of players is drawn to the prescribed list of drugs issued by the South African institute for drugs free sport. Consult their website www.drugfree sport.org.za or telephone their hot-line 0861272437 during office hours. Any players infringing this condition or refusing to take a test if asked to do so may be disqualified.