



# NORDIC GOLF LEAGUE

## Local Rules and Terms of Competition

The following Local Rules and Terms of Competition have been formulated after consultation with the Rules of Golf Committees of the Nordic Federations and apply to all Nordic Golf League events. In the event of a dispute arising as to the meaning of any Rule of Golf, the Rule will be interpreted according to the English Edition of the Rules of Golf.

Play is governed by the Rules of Golf effective January 2023. See the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf for Model Local Rule (MLR) references.

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

Matchplay: Loss of Hole

Strokeplay: Two strokes

### SECTION A – LOCAL RULES

The following Local Rules, together with any additions or amendments as published by the committee at each golf course, will apply until further notice to all tournaments under the auspices of the Nordic Golf League.

#### 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) Gates in Boundary Fences and Walls. Model Local Rule F-26.

#### 2. Penalty areas. Rule 17

- (a) Relief on Opposite Side of Red Penalty Area.  
Opposite side relief is available only to the red penalty areas that are listed on the Additional Local Rules under Model Local Rule B-2.1.
- (b) 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, 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.

#### 3. Abnormal Course Conditions, embedded ball. Rule 16.

##### (a) Ground Under Repair

- i All areas bounded by white lines including spectator crossing points where marked or otherwise specified.
- ii French drains (stone-filled drainage ditches).
- iii Seams of cut turf under Model Local Rule F-7.
- iv A hole made by movable obstructions (such as microphones, stakes, signs, tripods, tables, chairs etc.) in the general area may be treated as ground under repair by the Committee but with no relief for stance under Model Local Rule F-6.
- v Painted yardage dots or lines in a part of the general area cut to fairway height or less but with no relief for stance under Model Local Rule F-6.
- vi Animal Holes but with no relief for stance under Model Local Rule F-6.

##### (b) Immovable Obstructions

- i White lined areas tying into an obstruction, and the obstruction itself, are treated as a single obstruction.
- ii Landscaped or garden areas that are surrounded by immovable obstruction are treated as a single obstruction.

##### (c) Embedded ball

Rule 16.3 is modified in this way:

- i Model Local Rule F-2.2 is in effect. Free relief is not allowed when a ball is embedded in a stacked turf face above bunkers (including artificial stacked turf bunker faces). Furthermore, Model Local Rule F-7 is not applicable, including for vertical seams in a stacked turf face.

##### (d) Removal of Temporary Water

Model Local Rule J-2 is in effect and is modified in this way: If a player's ball lies on the putting green and there is interference by temporary water on the putting green, the player may:

- i Take free relief under Rule 16.1d, or
- ii Have their line of play squeegeed.
- iii Have the putting green squeegeed when a ball lies adjacent to the putting green in any part of the course, but only when authorised by the Committee.

Such squeegeeing should be done across the line of play and extend a reasonable distance beyond the hole (that is, at least one roller length) and only be carried out by the Committee or someone authorised by the Committee. The Committee may squeegee the putting green between groups.

#### 4. Animal Not Defined as Loose Impediment Near Ball

Model Local Rule E-13 is in effect. An animal not defined as a loose impediment may be removed. If the ball moves there is no penalty, and the ball must be replaced.

#### 5. Immovable obstructions close to putting greens

Model Local Rule F-5.2 is in effect as follows: When both the ball and the obstruction are in a part of the general area cut to fairway height or less the player may take relief under Rule 16.1b. The obstruction must be:

- i On the player's line of play,
- ii On or within two club-lengths of the putting green, and
- iii The ball must be within two club-lengths of the obstruction

Interference under this Local Rule also applies to holes made by the removal of a movable obstruction when the hole is treated as an abnormal course condition by the Committee under section 3a(iv) and painted yardage dots or lines under section 3a(v).

#### 6. 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 prohibiting relief when **only** stance interference exists under Model Local Rule F-6.
- (b) The portion of wires, cables, wrapping or other objects when closely attached to trees or other permanent objects. Any portion of temporary objects not closely attached may be treated as a temporary immovable obstruction by the Committee.
- (c) Artificial retaining walls and/or pilings when located within penalty areas.
- (d) Artificial retaining walls and/or pilings when located on the edge of bunkers but such objects are not part of the bunker.
- (e) Artificial stacked turf faces above bunkers.

#### 7. Ball deflected by permanent overhead power line

Model Local Rule E-11 is in effect. If it is known or virtually certain that a player's ball hit a power line located in bounds (not the supporting pole/pylon), the player must replay the stroke (see Rule 14.6). If the player replays the stroke but does so from a wrong place, they get the general penalty under Rule 14.7. If the player does not replay the stroke, they get the general penalty and the stroke counts, but the player has not played from a wrong place.

#### 8. Temporary Lines and Cables

Model Local Rule F-22 is in effect and is modified as follows: Mats that are secured and all ramps covering cables are immovable obstructions. Cables located within grass trenches are movable obstructions.

#### 9. Temporary Immovable Obstructions (TIOs)

Model Local Rule F-23 is in effect.

- (a) "Either Side" Relief Option  
The Additional Local Rules will specify which TIOs have an either side relief option. Either side relief is restricted to line of sight relief only and does not apply when the player chooses to operate under Rule 16.1 in taking free relief.
- (b) Optional Use of Dropping Zones (DZs)  
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 allowed under the TIO Local Rule or Rule 16.1. 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 it is nearer the hole. The "DZ" is a relief area under Rule 14.3.

#### 10. Caddies. Rule 10.3.

Model Local Rule H-1.2 is in effect: A player must not have a player, who has played in the same round, as his caddie during the round.

#### Penalty for breach of local rule:

The player gets the general penalty for each hole during which they are helped by such a caddie. If the breach happens or continues between two holes, the player gets the general penalty for the next hole.

#### 11. 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 Balls: Model Local Rule G-3 is in effect. Penalty for making a stroke in breach of this local rule: Disqualification.
- (d) One Ball Rule: Model Local Rule G-4 is in effect. Penalty for making a stroke at a ball in breach of this Local Rule: The player gets one penalty stroke for each hole during which they are in breach of this Local Rule. This Local Rule does not apply to professional or amateur players in any pre-tournament pro-am or approved one-day event or to amateurs who partner professional players in a major pro-am tournament.
- (e) Replacing Club that is Broken or Significantly Damaged: Model Local Rule G-9 is in effect (revised Jan 2026)

- (f) Prohibiting use of clubs longer than 46 inches: Model Local Rule G-10 is in effect. Penalty for making a stroke with a club in breach of this Local Rule: Disqualification. This Local Rule is also in effect in a Pro-Am played as the official competition, except for an amateur playing solely in a Pro-Am competition.

## **12. Stopping Play; Resuming Play. Rule 5.7.**

Model Local Rule J-1 is in effect as follows to suspend and resume play.

- (a) Immediate suspension (such as when there is imminent danger) - one prolonged note of the siren
- (b) Normal Suspension (such as when the course is flooded) - three consecutive notes of the siren.
- (c) Resume play - two short notes of the siren.

All practice areas are closed during a suspension for imminent danger.

## **13. Restrictions on practice. Rule 5.**

- (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 practice on the course before or between rounds,  
Exceptions:
    - i A player may practice on the designated practice areas.
    - ii A player may practice putting or chipping on or near their first teeing area.
- (b) During round – 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.

## **14. Prohibiting use of motorized transportation.**

Model Local Rule G-6 is in effect and is modified in this way:

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 (or caddie) who will play, or has played, under penalty of stroke and distance is always authorised.

## **15. 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).

## **16. Pace of Play (Rule 5.6b (3))**

Model Local Rule K-1 is in effect and is modified as follows:

If a group does not finish at least ANY three (3) of the holes on the front 9, AND at least ANY three (3) holes on the back 9.

- within the maximum allowed time decided by the committee, or
- within the starting interval of the group in front

If a group finishes the front or the back nine on or ahead of the maximum time allowed, they can NOT be fined for those nine holes.

### **Penalty for breach of the local rule:**

€15 per player if the breach is made only on the front nine or the back nine.

€30 per player if the breach is made on both the front nine and the back nine.

**NOTE 1:** A group is deemed to have finished a hole when the group has registered all scores in the group for that hole in the scoring system.

**NOTE 2:** A group must not register scores for a hole in the scoring system before all players in the group have finished that hole. If a group registers scores for a hole in the scoring system before all players in the group have finished that hole, they have breached Rule 1.2.

### **Individual timing**

A player, for whom it is possible to make a stroke and, from when it is deemed that he should have reached his ball, has

- 60 seconds to make his stroke if he is deemed to not have had time for preparing to make his stroke
- 40 seconds to make his stroke if he is deemed to have had time for preparing to make his stroke

A player in breach of any of the time limits is deemed to have a "bad time".

### **Penalty for breach of the local rule during the same tournament:**

|                 |                                    |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| One bad time    | Verbal warning and 20 EUR fine     |
| Two bad times   | One stroke penalty and 40 EUR fine |
| Three bad times | Two stroke penalty and 60 EUR fine |
| Four bad times  | Disqualification                   |

### **Notes:**

1. A player has had time to prepare for making his stroke if it is deemed that he should have reached his ball while, another player in the same group, who is to make his stroke before the player, is preparing to make his stroke, or the group in front of the player's group is within reach of the player's intended stroke.

2. It is possible to make a stroke when, the group in front of the player's group is out of reach of the player's intended stroke, or
  - the player's group does not have a ruling or is not waiting for a referee, or
  - the player does not have to wait for players on holes close by.
3. Players will not be advised that they are being timed.
4. Any player who has five bad times during the season will be fined 100 EUR and for every additional bad time he will be fined 100 EUR.

## **SECTION B – TERMS OF COMPETITION**

### **1. Recording Area and when scorecard has been returned.**

The recording area will be defined in the Additional Local Rules. A player has returned their scorecard to the Committee when the player has physically left the recording area.

### **2. Deciding ties**

Unless otherwise stated, if there is a tie for first place, there will be a hole-by-hole playoff to determine the winner.

### **3. When the result of the competition is final**

The competition is final when the official results have been validated in the scoring system by the Score Recorder and approved by the Committee. In the event of a play-off, the competition is final when the play-off scores have been approved by the Committee.

### **4. Anti-doping**

Players are required to comply with and be bound by the Nordic Golf Leagues Anti-Doping Policy, which can be found in the Nordic Golf League Rules and Regulations.

**Note:** Players should be aware that, under the Anti-Doping Policy, if a player is found to have committed an anti-doping rule violation, he may face disqualification both from the tournament at which he was tested (or otherwise committed the violation) and from any subsequent tournament in which he participated until provisionally suspended or rendered ineligible under the Policy. Disqualification in such cases includes the loss of all results, points and prize money.

***Nordic Golf League Executive Committee, January 2026***