

LOCAL RULES and TERMS OF COMPETITION 2025

The following Local Rules and Terms of Competition, together with any additions or amendments published by the Lithuanian Golf Federation (LGF) at the golf course, will apply to all competitions run by the LGF.

For the full text of any Local Rule reference below, please refer to the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf effective January 2023 and the Clarifications updated quarterly by the R&A, available at www.randa.org.

Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule is the **general penalty** (loss of hole in match play or two penalty strokes in stroke play).

These Local Rules replace any Local Rules published by a host club (e.g. on a club's score card).

1. Out of Bounds (Rule 18.2)

Closed gates attached to boundary walls and fences are part of the boundary object. Relief is not allowed from such a gate under Rules 15.2 or 16.1. An open gate is not treated as part of the boundary object and may be closed or moved to a different position.

The beginning and the end of the boundary of out of bounds may be marked by two white stakes approximately two feet apart each other. The line between these stakes indicates that the boundary of the out of bounds extends to infinity in that direction.

2. Penalty Areas (Rule 17)

- When a penalty area adjoins a boundary, the penalty area edge extends to and coincides with the boundary.
- When a player's ball is found in or it is known or virtually certain to have come to rest in any penalty area where the ball last crossed the edge of the penalty area at a point coinciding with the boundary of the course, opposite side relief is available under Model Local Rule B-2.1.
- When a penalty area is defined on only one side, it is deemed to extend to infinity.

The beginning and the end of the margin of red penalty area may be marked by two red stakes approximately two feet apart each other. The line between these stakes indicates that the margin of the red penalty area extends to infinity in that direction.

Dropping Zones for Penalty Area.

Where a dropping zone is marked for a penalty area, it is an additional option for relief under penalty of one stroke. The dropping zone is a relief area. A ball must be dropped in and come to rest in the relief area.

3. Abnormal Course Conditions (Including Immovable Obstructions) (Rule 16)

(a) Ground under Repair (GUR)

- 1) Any area bounded by a white or blue line or blue stakes.
- 2) Any area of damaged ground (e.g., caused by crowd or vehicle movement) that is considered by a referee to be abnormal.
- 3) French drains (stone-filled drainage ditches).
- 4) Seams of cut turf; Model Local Rule F-7 is in effect.
- 5) Yardage painted lines or dots on the putting green or in a part of the general area cut to fairway height or less are to be treated as ground under repair from which relief is available under Rule 16.1. Interference does not exist if yardage painted lines or dots only interfere with the player's stance.
- 6) Areas in bunkers where sand has been removed by the movement of water resulting in deep furrows through the sand are ground under repair.
- 7) When a GUR is immediately adjacent to an immovable obstruction, such an area is part of that obstruction.

(b) Immovable Obstructions

- 1) All artificially surfaced roads and paths, including the adjoining ditches made from artificial materials or not, on the course. Roads and paths, including the adjoining ditches, with uncertain boundaries may be marked by dotted white or dotted blue lines. All other roads, paths and tracks are integral objects.
- 2) White lined areas of GUR and the immovable obstruction they tie into are treated as a single abnormal course condition.

(c) Immovable Obstructions Close to Putting Greens

Model Local Rule F-5.1 is in effect.

Relief from interference by an immovable obstruction may be taken under Rule 16.1.

The player has an extra option to take free relief by dropping the original ball or another ball in the relief area when such immovable obstructions are on or close to the putting green and on the line of play:

Ball in General Area: The player may take relief under Rule 16.1b if an immovable obstruction is:

- On the line of play, and is:
 - On or within two club-lengths of the putting green, and
 - Within two club-lengths of the ball.

But complete relief must be taken, which includes both physical and line of play interference.

Exception – No Relief If Line of Play Clearly Unreasonable. There is no relief under this Local Rule if the player chooses a line of play that is clearly unreasonable.

Penalty for Playing Ball from a Wrong Place in Breach of Local Rule: General Penalty Under Rule 14.7a.”

4. 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 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 Local Rule: Disqualification.
- (c) List of Conforming Golf Balls: Model Local Rule G-3 is in effect. Penalty for breach of the Local Rule: Disqualification.

Note: an updated List of Conforming Clubs and Balls is available on www.randa.org

5. Pace of Play Policy (Rule 5.6)

(1) Time Allowed

Each hole has been given a maximum completion time based upon the length and difficulty of the hole. The maximum time allotted for the completion of 18 holes will be available prior to play.

Definition of “Out of Position”

A group is out of position when it has completed play of a hole (meaning that the ball of the last player in the group to hole out has been removed from the hole) later than the maximum allowable time given (see time chart) and it has not maintained the starting interval with the group ahead of it.

While the above is the strict definition, for additional guidance on whether a group is maintaining its position on the group in front, it will not be doing so if it:

- i. Reaches a par-3 hole that is clear of play and all players in the group in front of them have played their strokes from the teeing area of the next hole.
- ii. Reaches a par-4 or par-5 hole that is not clear of play but that becomes clear of play before all players in the group have played their strokes from the teeing area.
- iii. Reaches a par-4 or par-5 hole that is clear of play.

Note: If a ruling or some other legitimate delay occurs that causes the group in question to be out of position, that group is expected to regain its position within a reasonable time.

Players are both allowed and encouraged to play out of turn (“Ready Golf”) in a safe and responsible way under Rule 6.4b(2) at any time but especially when their group is out of position.

(2) Procedure when Group is Out of Position

- i. If a group is out of position, it will be given an official warning to speed up play.

- ii. If the group does not get back into position and a decision is taken to time the group, each player in the group will be subject to individual timing by a referee. Each player in the group will be advised that they are “out of position” and are being timed.

- iii. The maximum time allocated per shot is **40 seconds**. **10 extra seconds** are allowed for the first player to play:

- a stroke on a par 3 hole;
- a second stroke on a par 4 or par 5 hole;
- a third stroke on a par 5 hole;
- a stroke from around the putting green; and
- a stroke from on the putting green.

The timing will start when a player has had sufficient time to reach their ball, it is their turn to play and they are able to play without interference or distraction.

On the putting green, timing will start when the player has had a reasonable amount of time to lift, clean and replace their ball, repair damage and move loose impediments on their line of play. Time spent looking at the line from beyond the hole and/or behind the ball and aligning the ball will count as part of the time taken for the next stroke.

- iv. Timing ceases when a group is back in position and players will be advised accordingly.

Note: in some circumstances, an individual player, or two players within a group of three or three players within a group of four, may be timed instead of the entire group.

Penalty for Breach of Policy: “Bad times” are carried through an entire stroke play competition. For example, a player who gets a “bad time” in Round 1 (a warning) will get one penalty stroke if they get a second “bad time” either later in Round 1 or during any subsequent round of the competition. In match play, bad times only apply to a specific match.

One bad time	Player will be warned by the referee and told that, if they have a further bad time, they will be penalised.	
	Stroke Play	Match Play
Two bad times	One Stroke Penalty	One Stroke Penalty
Three bad times	Additional Two Penalty Strokes	Loss of Hole
Four bad times	Disqualification	Disqualification

(3) Excessive Shot Time

At any time, if any player is observed by a referee taking more than 120 seconds to play a shot, he or she will be notified of the excessive shot time and given an official warning to speed up play. The player will also be advised that the Committee may start individual timing at any time, even if the group is not out of position.

(4) Random Timing Without Warning When Group Not Out of Position

In some circumstances, a group or an individual player may be timed without warning, including when a group is not out of position. In such cases of “random timing”, the timing provisions and penalties set out in clause (2.iii) above apply, except that a player will only be given a bad time if he exceeds **60 seconds** to play a shot, with an **extra 10 seconds** given (i.e. 70 seconds in total) for the “first player to play” shots referenced in (2.iii) above.

6. Caddie (Rule 10.3)

Rule 10.3a is modified in this way: A player must not have **a professional golfer or another player of the same competition** as his or her caddie during the round; Model Local Rule H-1.2 is in effect.

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."

7. Suspension of Play (Rule 5.7)

The following signals will be used to suspend and resume play:

- immediate stop for imminent danger – one prolonged note of a siren;
- stop for a non-dangerous situation – three consecutive notes of a siren;
- resumption of play – two consecutive notes of a siren.

Note: when play is stopped for imminent danger, all practice areas will be immediately closed.

8. Practice (Rule 5.2)

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

9. Transportation

In all competitions conducted by the LGF, players and caddies must walk throughout the round. No form of motorised transportation will be permitted except as authorised or later approved by the Committee. A player who will play, or has played, under penalty of stroke and distance is always authorised to ride on motorised transportation. The player gets the **general penalty** for each hole during which there is a breach. A breach between two holes applies to the next hole.

10. Team Captains and Advice in Team Competitions (Rule 24)

(a) Team Captain (Rule 24.3)

Each team must nominate a team captain who must be an amateur golfer in accordance with the Rules of Amateur Status as approved by R&A Rules Limited.

Penalty for Breach of Local Rule: disqualification of Team.

Procedure if a team has not nominated a team captain: the player whose surname comes first alphabetically will automatically be appointed the team captain.

(b) Advice (Rule 24.4)

Two advice givers may be named by each team from whom players in the team may ask and receive advice. The first must be the team captain (see 10a) and the second may or may not be a professional golfer. The advice givers must be identified to the Committee via the “Registration Form” prior to the start of the competition and must remain unchanged for the duration of the competition unless agreed by the competition Committee under exceptional circumstances.

Penalty for Breach of Local Rule: The advice giver in breach of the Local Rule will lose their advice giver status for the remainder of the competition.

The advice givers must not walk on the putting green at any time. When the ball of a team player lies on the putting green, the advice givers are prohibited from giving advice for strokes to be made from the putting green.

Penalty for Breach of Local Rule: general penalty

The advice givers must not ride on any form of motorised transportation during play except as authorised or later approved by the Committee.

Penalty for Breach of Local Rule: first breach: warning; subsequent breach: loss of advice giver status.

11. Anti-Doping

Players are required to comply with and be bound by the Anti-Doping Policy that is established by the International Golf Federation.

12. Modification of Penalty Under Rule 3.3b(2) for Missing Player or Marker Certification

Model Local Rule L-1 is in effect.

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 **two penalty strokes**. The penalty applies to the last hole of the player’s round.

13. Returning of Scorecard

A player’s scorecard is officially returned to the Committee when the player has physically left the recording/scoring office/area.

14. Results of Competition – Competition Closed

(a) Match Play. The result of a match is officially announced when it has been recorded in the Tournament Office.

(b) Stroke Play. When the Championship trophy is presented to the winner, the results of the competition are officially announced, and the competition is closed.