



EXPANDED MODEL LOCAL RULES - 2021

The *MGA Terms of Competition* sheet references many Model Local Rules. Here is the full text for each of those. Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for the breach of a Local Rule is:

Match Play-Loss of Hole; Stroke Play-Two Strokes

LIMITING WHEN STROKE MADE FROM PUTTING GREEN MUST BE REPLAYED UNDER EXCEPTION 2 TO RULE 11.1B – MODEL LOCAL RULE D-7

Known Exception 2 to Rule 11.1b applies, except that when a ball played from the *putting green* accidentally hits:

- the player,
- the club used by the player to make the stroke or
- an *animal* defined as a *loose impediment* (that is, worm, insects and similar animals that can be removed easily)

the stroke counts and the ball must be played as it lies.

BALL DEFLECTED BY POWER LINE – MODEL LOCAL RULE E-11

If it is known or virtually certain that a player's ball hit a power line during the play of a hole, the stroke does not count. The player must play a ball without penalty from where the previous stroke was made.

However, a ball striking a tower, pole or support wire without striking the power line itself, or striking the power line when out of bounds, must be played as it lies. There is no line of flight relief from these obstructions.

BALL PLAYED FROM OUTSIDE RELIEF AREA WHEN TAKING BACK-ON-THE-LINE RELIEF – MODEL LOCAL RULE E-12

When taking Back-On-the-Line relief, there is no additional penalty if a player plays a ball that was *dropped* in the *relief area* required by the relevant Rule (Rule 16.1c(2), 17.1d(2), 19.2b or 19.3b) but came to rest outside the *relief area*, so long as the ball, when played, is within one *club-length* of where it first touched the ground when *dropped*.

This exemption from penalty applies even if the ball is played from nearer the hole than the reference point (but not if played from nearer the *hole* than the spot of the original ball or the estimated point where the ball last crossed the edge of the *penalty area*).

This Local Rule does not change the procedure for taking Back-On-the-Line relief under a relevant Rule. This means that the reference point and *relief area* are not changed by this Local Rule and that Rule 14.3c(2) can be applied by a player who drops a ball in the right way and it comes to rest outside the *relief area*, whether this occurs on the first or second drop."

RELIEF FROM SEAMS OF CUT TURF – MODEL LOCAL RULE F-7

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:

(a) Ball in General Area. The player may take relief under Rule 16.1b.

(b) Ball on Putting Green. The player may take relief under Rule 16.1d.

But 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. This means that if a player has interference from any seam after dropping the ball, the player must proceed as required under Rule 14.3c(2) even when the ball is still within one club-length of the reference point.

CONFORMING BALL RULE – MODEL LOCAL RULE G-3

Any ball used in making a stroke must be on the current List of Conforming Golf Balls issued by the USGA.

PENALTY: *Disqualification.*

MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION – MODEL LOCAL RULE G-6

During a round, a player or caddie must not ride on any form of motorized transportation **except** as authorized or later approved by the Committee. A player who will play, or has played, under penalty of stroke and distance is always authorized to ride on motorized transportation.

[If applicable, players and caddies may ride on any shuttles available made by the Committee on listed holes.]

PENALTY: *General penalty for each breach. If the breach occurs between the play of two holes, it applies to the next hole.*

REPLACEMENT OF CLUB THAT IS BROKEN OR SIGNIFICANTLY DAMAGED – MODEL LOCAL RULE G-9

Rule 4.1b(3) is modified in this way: If a player's club is "broken or significantly damaged" during the round by the player or caddie, except in cases of abuse, the player may replace the club with any club under Rule 4.1b(4).

When replacing a club, the player must immediately take the broken or significantly damaged club out of play, using the procedure in Rule 4.1c(1).

For the purposes of this Local Rule:

- A club is "broken or significantly damaged" when:
 - the shaft breaks into pieces, splinters or is bent (but not when the shaft is only dented)
 - the club face impact area is visibly deformed (but not when the club face is only scratched)
 - the clubhead is visibly and significantly deformed, or
 - the grip is loose.

Exception: A club face or clubhead is not "broken or significantly damaged" solely because it is cracked.

Penalty for Breach of Local Rule – See Rule 4.1b

PRACTISING BEFORE & BETWEEN ROUNDS (Stroke Play Only) – MODEL LOCAL RULE I-1.1

Prior to and after a round in stroke play, a player may practice on the designated practice areas. Rule 5.2b covering practice in stroke play is modified in this way: A player must not practise on the competition course before or between rounds. **PENALTY: 1ST Breach – *Two Penalty Strokes (applied to the player's first hole).***

PENALTY: 2ND Breach – *Disqualification.*

PRACTISING BETWEEN HOLES (Stroke Play Only) – MODEL LOCAL RULE I-2

Rule 5.5b is modified in this way: Between the play of two holes, a player must not (1) make any practice stroke on or near the putting green of the hole just completed, or (2) Test the surface of that putting green by rubbing the putting green or rolling a ball. This does not preclude a player from finishing out a hole where the score may not be used in team competition. **PENALTY: *Two Penalty Strokes at next hole.***

TEMPORARY IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS – MODEL LOCAL RULE F-23

Definition of TIO: A temporary *immovable obstruction* (TIO) is a structure that is temporarily added on or next to the *course*, usually for a particular competition, and is fixed or not readily movable, such as tents and scoreboards. TIOs include any supporting guy wires connected to them, except when the *Committee* decides the supporting guy wires are to be treated as *immovable obstructions*.

The outermost edge of the TIO is used in determining whether a ball is under the TIO or whether the TIO is on the player's line of sight between the ball and the *hole*. Lines or stakes may be used to define the edges of a TIO or to connect multiple TIOs into a single, larger TIO.

A TIO is different from an *immovable obstruction*, and this Local Rule provides additional relief from interference by a TIO. This means that the player can choose to take relief by using either:

- The procedure for taking relief from an *abnormal course condition* in Rule 16 as if the TIO were an *immovable obstruction* (this relief is also available when the ball lies in a *penalty area* or when the TIO is *out of bounds*), or
- The additional relief option available under this Local Rule.

a. When Relief Is Allowed

Relief from a TIO is normally allowed when there is physical interference or line of sight interference from the TIO. Interference under this Local Rule means that the player has:

- Physical interference,
- Line of sight interference, or
- Both physical and line of sight interference.

(1) **Meaning of Physical Interference by Temporary Immovable Obstruction.** Physical interference exists when:

- The player's ball touches or lies in or on a TIO, or
- The TIO interferes with the player's area of intended *stance* or area of intended swing.

(2) **Meaning of Line of Sight Interference by Temporary Immovable Obstruction.** Line of sight interference exists when:

- The player's ball touches or lies in, on or under a TIO, or
- The TIO is on the player's line of sight to the *hole* (that is, the TIO is located on the straight line between the ball and the *hole*), or
- The ball is within one *club-length*, measured on an equidistant arc from the *hole*, of a spot where the TIO would be on the player's direct line of sight to the *hole* (this one *club-length* wide area is commonly referred to as the "corridor").

(3) **When No Relief Is Available Despite Having Interference.** If the ball touches or is in or on the TIO, relief is always available. **But** when the ball neither touches nor is in or on the TIO, there is no relief under this Local Rule if any of the following applies:

- From either physical interference or line of sight interference:
 - There is no relief when playing the ball as it lies would clearly be unreasonable because of something other than the TIO (such as when the player is unable to make a *stroke* because of where the ball lies in a bush outside the TIO), and
 - There is no relief when interference exists only because the player chooses a club, type of *stance* or swing or direction of play that is clearly unreasonable under the circumstances; and
- From line of sight interference:
 - There is no relief when it is clearly unreasonable for a player to play the ball far enough that the ball will reach the TIO, and

- There is no relief when the player cannot show that there is a *stroke* that he or she could reasonably play that would both (a) have the TIO (including the corridor) on the line of that *stroke*, and (b) result in the ball finishing on a direct line to the *hole*.

b. Relief from Interference for Ball in General Area

If the player's ball is in the *general area* and there is interference by a TIO (including a TIO located *out of bounds*), the player may take free relief by *dropping* the original ball or another ball in and playing it from this *relief area*:

- **Reference Point:** The *nearest point of complete relief* where both physical and line of sight interference no longer exist.
- **Size of Relief Area from Reference Point:** The entire area within one *club-length* from the reference point, **but** with these limits:
- **Limits on Location of Relief Area:**
 - Must be in the *general area*,
 - Must not be nearer the *hole* than the reference point, and
 - There must be complete relief from both physical and line of sight interference by the TIO.

If the player has physical interference from the TIO, instead of using this relief procedure he or she may choose to take relief using the procedure for taking relief from an *abnormal course condition* in [Rule 16.1b](#), treating the TIO as if it were an *immovable obstruction*. The relief procedure under [Rule 16.1b](#) is also available when the ball lies in a penalty area or when the TIO is *out of bounds*. See Clause f of this Local Rule for how to take relief.

f. Player May Proceed Under Other Relief Rules

(1) **Taking Relief by Using the Procedures in Rule 16.1 or this Local Rule.** If a player has physical interference from the TIO as defined in Clause a, the player may either:

- Choose to use the relief procedures in [Rule 16.1](#) or
- Use this Local Rule.
- **But** may not take relief under one of these options and then take relief under the other.

If the player chooses to use the procedure for taking relief from an *abnormal course condition* in [Rule 16.1](#), he or she must treat the TIO as if it is an *immovable obstruction* and take relief based on where the ball lies:

- **In the general area** using the procedures in [Rule 16.1b](#).
- **In a bunker** using the procedures in [Rule 16.1c](#).
- **In a penalty area** using the procedures in [Rule 16.1c](#) as if the ball lies in a *bunker*.
- **On the putting green** using the procedures in [Rule 16.1d](#).

(2) **Taking Relief under Rule 17, 18 or 19.** This Local Rule does not prevent the player from taking relief under [Rule 17](#), [18](#) or [19](#) rather than taking TIO relief under this Local Rule.