



**ALBERTA
GOLF**

2021 Alberta Golf Competitions Information Booklet



Code of Conduct Policy

For 2021 Alberta Golf Championships

Alberta Golf takes great pride in the quality of its players, host facilities and community involvement at each championship. In order to continue making Alberta Golf competitions enjoyable for everyone, all competitors are required to adhere to the Alberta Golf Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct applies to all players and caddies, on and off the golf course, throughout the entire competition, including the practice round(s). The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to outline expectations and to clarify actions that are considered violations so that players are aware of the consequences of their actions. Rule 1.2 Standards of Player Conduct is applicable, and players should familiarize themselves with its contents.

Violations of the Code of Conduct:

- Unsportsmanlike conduct, including unacceptable language, abuse of clubs, disrespect to other players, referees, spectators, volunteers, and/or failure to care for the course.
- Bullying, harassment, discrimination, and intimidation.
- Consumption of alcoholic beverages, recreational drugs and cannabis products on the competition course or any designated practice areas.
- Possession of any illegal substance.
- Failure to adhere to the dress code policy while on the host facility property.
- *Smoking or chewing tobacco products are allowed* on the competition course or any designated practice areas as long as the host facility policy allows for this. Players who use these products should do so in a discreet manner with particular care for the impact it may have on the course, fellow players and spectators.
- Any other conduct unbecoming of an Alberta Golf member.

Code of Conduct Penalties:

- First breach of the Code of Conduct: **Verbal warning** from referee or Committee sanction.
- Second breach: **One-stroke penalty.**
- Third breach: **General Penalty.**
- Fourth breach **OR** any serious misconduct: **Disqualification.**

The Committee for each respective championship is the sole judge in determining conduct unbecoming and may assess any or all of the preceding penalties based on the severity and frequency of the violation(s). Disciplinary sanctions that a Committee may impose include refusing to allow the player to enter one or more future competitions. Any serious misconduct resulting in a disqualification will result in a written letter to the player. In the event of a sanction, the player will be required to submit a written account of the Code of Conduct violation to the Alberta Golf Competitions Committee within 30 days of the incident. The Committee will determine the severity of the sanction after reviewing all submitted materials, including an Alberta Golf tournament official/staff account of the violation.

Penalty Appeals

Players are entitled to appeal penalties incurred during the stipulated round. Players must invoke their right to appeal before signing their scorecard in the scoring area. The Tournament Rules Chair is the Head Referee and he or she will review the penalties with the player and referee(s) involved, and if necessary, with the fellow players in the group. The final decision will be at the discretion of the Tournament Rules Committee. Players may not appeal penalties for serious misconduct that result in disqualification.



Dress Code Policy

For 2021 Alberta Golf Championships

The purpose of the dress code policy is to ensure reasonable and appropriate standards are maintained at all Alberta Golf competitions. All players, caddies and spectators must adhere to the dress code any time they are on host facility property. The dress code is in effect at all Alberta Golf competitions in conjunction with any additional dress code restrictions of the host facility, which will be communicated to all players in advance of the competition.

Permitted Attire:

- Golf shirts with collars (mock style necks, sleeveless and turtlenecks are permitted).
- Golf pants, dress pants, dress shorts, skorts, capris and dresses.
- Shirts may be worn untucked if so designed.
- Hats or visors must be worn in a forward position.

Attire Not Permitted:

- Hats or visors in the clubhouse.
- Racerback with a mock or regular collar are allowed (no collar = no racerback).
- Tank tops, mesh shirts or graphic t-shirts.
- Plunging necklines.
- Leggings (unless under a skort or shorts).
- Length of skirt, skort, and shorts must be long enough to not see your bottom area (even if covered by under shorts) at any time, standing or bent over.
- Workout gear and jeans (of any kind and color).
- Joggers are not allowed.
- Any other inappropriate or questionable attire determined by the Tournament Rules Committee.

Footwear Not Permitted:

- During a round, a player must not wear shoes with:
 - Traditional spikes – that is, spikes having single or multiple points designed to penetrate deeply into the surface of the ground (regardless of whether made of metal, ceramic, plastic or other materials); or
 - Spikes of any design that are entirely or partially made of metal, if such metal may come in contact with the course.
- A caddie may not wear traditionally designed spikes or shoes with conventional spikes (regardless of composition). Spikeless golf shoes and running shoes are permitted.

Players in violation of the dress code will not be allowed to tee off; or, if the violation is discovered once play has begun, the player or caddie must rectify immediately without undue delay. Spectators will be asked to rectify immediately without undue delay. All individuals in violation of the dress code policy will be subject to the respective Code of Conduct Policies and penalty structures.



Individual Pace of Play Policy *For 2021 Alberta Golf Championships*

The Rules of Golf require that a player must not unreasonably delay play, either when playing a hole or between two holes (Rule 5.6a). Rule 5.6b(3) states, in part: To encourage and enforce prompt play the Committee should adopt a Local Rule setting a Pace of Play Policy. This policy may set a maximum time to complete a round, a hole or series of holes and a stroke, and it may set penalties for not following the policy. To ensure prompt play and prevent being penalized, players should review the following policy carefully.

Maximum Allowable Time

The maximum allowable time is the maximum time considered necessary by the Committee for a group to complete its round. This is expressed in a per-hole and aggregate time format and includes all time associated with playing the game, e.g., for rulings and walking times between holes. All players are required to play at no more than the maximum allowable time (Time Par) set out for the competition. The Time Par is printed on each players scorecard. The following procedure applies only if a group is “out of position”.

Definition of Out of Position

- The first group to start will be considered “out of position” if, at any time during the round, the group’s cumulative time exceeds the time allowed for the number of holes played as detailed on the applicable competition’s Pace of Play Time Chart (Time Par).
- Any following group will be considered out of position if, at any time during the round, they:
 - exceed the time allowed for the number of holes played **OR**
 - complete play of a hole more than 13 minutes and 59 seconds after the preceding group completes play of that hole **OR**
 - arrive at the teeing area of a par 4 or par 5 hole that is open and free of play.

Procedure When Group is Out of Position

1. Referees will monitor pace of play and decide whether a group that is “out of position” should be timed. An assessment of whether there are any recent mitigating circumstances, e.g. a lengthy ruling, lost ball, unplayable ball, etc. will be made.

If a decision is made to time the players, each player in the group will be subject to individual timing and a referee will advise each player that they are “out of position” and they are being timed.

In exceptional circumstances, an individual player, or two players within a group of three, may be timed instead of the entire group.

2. The maximum time allocated per stroke is 40 seconds. 10 extra seconds are allowed for the first player to play:
 - a) a tee shot on a par 3 hole; b) an approach shot to the green; and c) a chip or putt.

The timing will start when a player has had sufficient time to reach the ball, it is his or her turn to play and he or she is able to play without interference or distraction. Time taken to determine distance and select a club will count as time take for the next stroke.

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

Timings will be taken from the moment it is decided by the referee that it is the player's turn to play and he or she is able to play without interference or distraction.

Time ceases when a group is back in position and players will be advised accordingly.

Until a player has been advised of a bad time, he or she cannot incur a further bad time.

Procedure When Again Out of Position During Same Round

If a group is "out of position" more than one during a round, the above procedure will apply on each occasion. Bad times and the application of penalties in the same round will be carried forward until the round is completed. A player will not be penalized if he or she has a second bad time before being advised of the earlier bad time.

Pace of Play Penalties

Modified Pace of Play Penalty Structure – Model Local Rule K-5. The following are the penalties for any player in a group being timed who exceeds the applicable time to play a stroke:

- Penalty for first breach: **Verbal warning** from referee.
- Penalty for second breach: **One-stroke penalty**.
- Penalty for third breach: **General Penalty** applied in addition to the penalty for the second breach.
- Penalty for fourth breach: **Disqualification**.

Penalty Appeals

Players are entitled to appeal penalties incurred during the stipulated round. Player must invoke their right to appeal before signing their scorecard in the scoring area. The Tournament Rules Chair is the Head Referee and he or she will review the penalties with the player and referee(s) involved, and if necessary, with the fellow players in the group. The final decision will be at the discretion of the Tournament Rules Committee.



Local Rules and Terms of the Competition *For 2021 Alberta Golf Championships*

Play is governed by the 2019 Rules of Golf as approved by Golf Canada, and, where applicable, by the following Local Rules and Terms of the Competition, subject to changes, additions or deletions for particular championships. See applicable championship or qualifying round Notice to Players for modifications or additions to these Local Rules and Terms of the Competition. Complete text of Local Rules may be found in the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf, effective January 2019.

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

- 1. Out of Bounds and Course Boundaries** – Defined by the line between the course-side points at ground level of white stakes and fence posts. A ball is out of bounds when it is beyond any wall defining the boundary of the course.
- 2. Penalty Areas** – When a red penalty area is defined on only one side, it extends to infinity. When a red penalty area is connected to the out of bounds edge, the penalty area extends to and coincides with the out of bounds edge.
- 3. Abnormal Course Conditions**
 - a. Ground Under Repair includes areas defined by white lines; French drains filled with stones are ground under repair. Flower beds are ground under repair no play zones.
 - b. Relief from Seams of Cut Turf – 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, the player may take relief under Rule 16.1b. Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule F-7.
 - c. Immovable Obstructions – White-lined areas of ground under repair and the artificially surfaced road or path, or other identified obstructions they tie into are treated as a single abnormal course condition when taking relief under Rule 16.1.
- 4. Integral Objects** – The following are integral objects from which free relief is not allowed:
 - a. Wrappings, wires, cables, rods and other similar objects when closely attached to trees;
 - b. Permanent artificial walls and pilings when located in bunkers;
 - c. Bunker liners in their intended position. Interference by a liner with a player’s stance is deemed not to be, of itself, interference under this Rule.
- 5. Permanent Elevated Power Lines or Cables** – If a ball strikes a permanent elevated power

line or cable, the stroke does not count. The player must play a ball without penalty from where the previous stroke was made (Rule 14.6).

6. **Temporary Immovable Obstructions** – Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule F-23. Temporary Immovable Obstructions include, but are not limited to, starting tents, scoring tents and live scoring / checkpoint station tents if in use.
7. **List of Conforming Driver Heads and Golf Balls**
 - a. List of Conforming Driver Heads; Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule G-1. Penalty for making a stroke with a club in breach of the Local Rule: **Disqualification.**
 - b. Conforming Balls List; Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule G-3. Penalty for making a stroke with a ball not on current list in breach of this Local Rule: **Disqualification.**
8. **Restricting Use of Audio and Video Devices** – Rule 4.3a(4) is modified in this way: During a round, a player must not listen to or watch content of any nature on a personal audio or video device.
9. **Modified Rules for Players with Disabilities** – Specified clause(s) of the Modified Rules for Players with Disabilities are in effect when both the player and clause(s) are approved by the Committee in the NTC.
10. **Prompt Pace of Play** – Alberta Golf’s Pace of Play Policy is in effect at all competitions. Players must ensure that they complete holes and the round within the times established by the Committee. The full policy is available online at www.albertagolf.org and in the Tournament Office. **Note:** Rule 5.6a (Unreasonable Delay of Play) is still applicable.
11. **Caddies** – Use of caddies will not be permitted for the 2020 season.
12. **Stopping and Resuming Play** – Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule J-1.

An immediate suspension of play for a dangerous situation will be signaled by one prolonged air horn note. All other normal suspensions will be signaled by three consecutive air horn notes. In either case, resumption of play will be signaled by two short air horn notes. See Rule 5.7b.

Note: The course and all practice areas are closed when play is suspended for a dangerous situation until the Committee has declared them open. Players who practice on a closed area will be asked to stop; failure to stop practicing will result in **disqualification.**
13. **Practice** – Before and between rounds in Stroke Play, Rule 5.2b is modified in this way: A player must not practise on the competition course before or between rounds. Penalty for first breach: **General Penalty** (applied to the player’s first hole). Penalty for second breach: **Disqualification.**

During a round, Rule 5.5b is modified in this way: Between the play of two holes, a player must not:

- a. Make any practice stroke on or near the putting green of the hole just completed, or
 - b. Test the surface of that putting green by rubbing the putting green or rolling a ball.
- 14. Transportation** – 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. Players and caddies may ride on the shuttle between holes. Penalty for Breach of Local Rule: 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.
- 15. Code of Conduct** – Alberta Golf has adopted the Local Rule under Rule 1.2b setting standards of player conduct on the golf course during play at all amateur competitions. The full policy is available online at www.albertagolf.org and in the Tournament Office. The Committee may assess any or all of the following penalties outlined in the structure below, based on the severity and frequency of the violation: Warning, One penalty stroke, General Penalty, Disqualification. **Note:** Under [Rule 1.2a](#), a Committee may **disqualify** a player for serious misconduct for acting contrary to the spirit of the game.
- 16. Bunkers and Rakes** - There shall be no rakes on the golf course. All disturbed areas in bunkers shall be considered ground under repair. Players may take free relief from such areas, but such relief must be taken elsewhere within the bunker. Players are strongly encouraged to try their best to smooth the disturbed area with a foot or a club when exiting the bunker.
- 17. Flagstick** - As a means of minimizing exposure to players, Alberta Golf has introduced a code of conduct that prohibits players from touching or removing the flagstick. As is authorized under Rule 1.2b, a penalty of stroke (or the general penalty) will be enforced if a player is in breach of this code. All pins will be equipped with ball raisers provided by EZ-Lyft System (www.golfballezlyft.com).
- 18. Scorecards and Scoring** – All players will be provided with a physical scorecard and as the marker, they will use this card to keep track of their opponent's score. Following play, the marker will then allow the player for whom they were keeping score to take a picture of the completed scorecard and either email or text it to the Committee. Once this action has been taken, the scorecard would be considered returned.
- 19. When Competition is Final** – The competition is deemed to have closed when the trophy has been presented to the winner or, in the absence of a prize ceremony, when all scores have been approved by the Committee.



Spectator and Parent Code of Conduct Policy *For 2021 Alberta Golf Championships*

Alberta Golf takes great pride in the quality of its championships, host facilities and community involvement at each championship. In order to continue making Alberta Golf competitions enjoyable for everyone, and to show respect for the involvement of our host facilities, their members and volunteers, all spectators and parents are required to adhere to the Alberta Golf Spectator and Parent Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct applies to all spectators, on and off the golf course, throughout the entire competition, including the practice round(s). The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to outline expectations and to clarify actions that are considered violations so that spectators are aware of the consequences of their actions.

Violations of the Code of Conduct:

- Failing to adhere to Covid-19 safety regulations.
- Family members or friends following play when not in a volunteer role, being present at practice areas or using clubhouse facilities. *Spectators will not be permitted on golf course for the 2021 season.*
- Objectionable behaviour including unacceptable language, disrespect to other players, referees, volunteers, and/or failure to care for the course.
- Possession of any illegal substance.
- Failure to adhere to the dress code policy while on the host facility property.
- Any other conduct unbecoming of an Alberta Golf member.
- Carrying, transporting or handling a player's clubs, including their golf bag and/or cart during a stipulated round. *Use of caddies will not be permitted for the 2021 season.*
- While on course in a volunteer role, giving or offering advice to any player during a stipulated round. Advice is defined as any verbal comment or action that is intended to influence a player: in choosing a club; making a stroke, or; deciding how to play during a hole or round. Note: limit all communication, verbal and non-verbal, which may be construed by others (players, tournament officials, volunteers and referees) as advice.
- Live scorers, being less than approximately 20 yards from players on a consistent basis.
- Walking on teeing areas, fairways, putting greens, or starting and scoring areas. Live scorers and ball spotters are encouraged to walk on paths and in the rough, avoiding interference with play.
- Searching for a player's ball without the express permission of the player.
- Player interference and/or distraction from loud conversation or cell phone notifications. Cell phones are permitted on the course with the volume setting on low or silent, unless the host facility does not permit cell phones.
- Riding in a motorized golf cart without the express permission of the Committee.
- Intervening with referees administering rulings.

Respecting the Host Facility:

- Adhering to Covid-19 safety regulations.
- Respect the host facility policy if cell phones are prohibited.
- If you are going to wear golf shoes as you walk the course, make sure they do not have metal or traditionally designed spikes.
- Ensuring all waste is in appropriate bins.

This information was compiled not because of recurring problems, but rather to have a reference for spectators and parents for frequently asked questions. Alberta Golf and our host facilities thank you for your cooperation.

Code of Conduct Sanctions:

- First breach of the Code of Conduct: **Verbal warning** from referee or tournament rules chairperson.
- Second breach: **2 stroke penalty** to competitor associated with person violating policies.
- Third breach **OR** any serious misconduct: **Banned from the facility immediately.**

The Committee for each respective championship is the sole judge in determining conduct unbecoming and may assess any or all of the preceding penalties based on the severity and frequency of the violation(s). Disciplinary sanctions that a Committee may impose include being banned from the course, host facility and/or future Alberta Golf competition. The Committee will advise as to the stipulations of the sanction. The final decision will be at the discretion of the Tournament Rules Committee. Spectators and parents may not appeal sanctions for serious misconduct that result in being banned from the facility for a duration of time.