



2023 COMPETITIONS INFORMATION BOOKLET



Alberta Golf takes great pride in running championships that encourage engagement and participation from host club members and volunteers while providing all players with the best competitive experience possible.

To continue making Alberta Golf competitions enjoyable for everyone, all competitors are encouraged to do their part and become familiar with the following policies: Code of Conduct, Dress Code, Spectator and Parent Code of Conduct, Local Rules and Terms of Competition, Pace of Play, Suspension of Play and Withdrawal and Disqualification.

Local Rules and Terms of the Competition

Play is governed by the 2023 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 2023.

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, also includes a painted line on the ground. A ball is out of bounds when it is beyond any wall defining the boundary of the course. Model local rule A-3 is in effect.

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. Model Local Rule B-1 is in effect.

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 and unmarked severely worn areas immediately adjacent to immovable Obstructions (artificially surfaced cart paths) are ground under repair and the artificially surfaced road or path, or other identified obstructions that tie into them 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 and penalty areas;

- 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.
- d. Landscaping fabric in its intended position is an integral object for stance and an immovable obstruction for the lie of the ball and swing interference.

5) Permanent Elevated Power Lines or Cables

– If it is known or virtually certain a ball strikes a permanent elevated power line or cable, the stroke does not count. Model Local Rule E-11 is in effect. 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, golf balls and club replacement

- a. All drivers and balls in use must be on the current conforming list as provided by the USGA. Local Rule G-1 and G-3 are in effect. Penalty for this breach is **Disqualification**.
- b. Club replacement – a club damaged in the course of normal play, NOT through abuse may be replaced with any club and done so in a timely manner as unreasonable delay is still in effect.

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. Model Local Rule G-8 is in effect.

9) 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 albertagolf.org and in the Tournament Office. Note: Rule 5.6a (Unreasonable Delay of Play) is still applicable.

10) Caddies

– must register with tournament committee prior to play. A player must not have another player in the competition, as their caddie during a round. Model Local Rule H-1.2 is in effect.

11) 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.

12) 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.

13) Transportation – For events where transportation is prohibited. 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. Model Local Rule G-6 is in effect.

14) 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 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.

15) Scorecards and Scoring – In a stroke play event. All players will be given a scorecard. Players will exchange scorecards with another player in their group. The player will be the marker and keep the scores of the other player. Following play, the player and scorer will confirm scores on each hole are correct. Once the scorecard has been deemed correct and both the player and marker have signed the card, and the player has exited the scoring area, their round is considered to be officially complete.

16) 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.



Individual Pace of Play Policy

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 player's 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 taken 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 once 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.

Suspension of Play

Immediate and Normal Suspensions of Play

- If the Tournament Committee declares an immediate suspension of play, all players must stop play at once, mark their ball and must not take another stroke until the Tournament Committee resumes play.
- If the Tournament Committee suspends play for normal reasons (i.e., darkness or unplayable course), what happens next depends on whether a group is between holes or playing a hole.

Deciding When to Suspend Play

1. Lightning – Play will be suspended due to lightning based on the following guidelines:

- a. Lightning is visible or detected in the area.
- b. If a rules official cannot count at least 30 seconds between lightning strikes and the thunder.
- c. Lightning is deemed to be within 10km of the host club.

2. Rain – Play will be suspended due to rain based on the following guidelines:

- a. If the area around a hole is covered in temporary water and it cannot be removed.
- b. If players must move their ball an unreasonable amount in order to find a dry area.
- c. If the host club expresses concern for the overall health of the course if play continues.

4. Visibility – Play will be suspended due to visibility based on the following guidelines:

- a. If players cannot see the landing area.
- b. If players are unable to read the line of play on a putting green due to lack of visibility.

5. Wind – Play will be suspended due to wind based on the following guidelines:

- a. If several balls have moved because of the wind. One or two moving balls usually is not enough to suspend play; however, an exception can be made if it occurs within the first handful of groups.
- b. If players cannot replace their ball to its original location without it moving due to wind.

Deciding When to Resume and Cancel Play

- Tournament Officials will monitor weather conditions and provide updates every 30 minutes when play is suspended.
- Play must be suspended if one of the above guidelines is met.
- If the decision is made to resume play players will be given 30 minutes to return to their respective holes.
- Rounds can be cancelled only if less than half of the competing field have completed their round.
- If more than half of the competing field has finished their round, then play must resume at the earliest possible moment.

Motorized Transportation Policy

As a general policy, players, caddies and spectators are expected to walk at all times at Alberta Golf competitions.

Exceptions:

- A competitor with a serious, physical disability (permanent or temporary) may request the use of motorized transportation for himself or herself at any Alberta Golf competition by following the approved application procedure. If motorized transportation is approved for a player at a competition that would otherwise prohibit the use of motorized transportation, the conditions described in Part A below must be in place.
- Competitors in the Men's Senior Championship, Men's Super-Senior Championship, Men's Mid-Master Championship and the Women's Senior Championship will be permitted to use motorized transportation. The conditions described in Part B below must be in place.
- If it can save time and ensure prompt pace of play, a referee can, and should, transport a player proceeding under stroke and distance penalty.

- Shuttles may be used in certain competitions where there is a great distance between one hole and the next hole. In these cases, players and their caddies are permitted to use motorized transportation. Locations of the shuttles will be communicated to players in advance of the competition.
- A spectator with a serious, physical disability (permanent or temporary) may request that a tournament official or referee transport them to a certain location on the property.

Part A: Use of Motorized Transportation by a Person with a Serious Disability:

When using motorized transportation, the player must not:

- Permit anyone else to drive the cart (other than moving it a very short distance to facilitate play);
- Permit anyone else to ride in the cart;
- Drive past any player's ball to gauge distance or gather any other information about the hole.

A player in breach of this condition is subject to the applicable penalties.

Part B: Use of Motorized Transportation

- There is a limit of two golf carts per group.
- If a cart is shared by two or more players, the cart and everything in it are deemed to be the equipment of the player whose ball is involved except that, when the cart is being moved by one of the players sharing it, the cart and everything in it are deemed to be that player's equipment.
- When using motorized transportation, the player must not:
 - Permit anyone other than a player or caddie to drive the cart (other than moving it a very short distance to facilitate play);
 - Permit anyone other than a player or caddie to ride in the cart;
 - Drive past any player's ball to gauge distance or gather any other information about the hole.

A player in breach of this condition is subject to the applicable penalties.



Dress Code Policy

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:

- Men are required to wear golf shirts with collars (mock necks and turtle necks are permitted) and sleeves. Shorts may be worn, but they cannot be rugger or cargo shorts (outside external pocket).
- Women are permitted to wear pants, shorts, skorts, capris and dresses. Mock style, v-neck and sleeveless shirts are permitted. Bare midriff or cleavage is not acceptable.
- Hats or visors must be worn in a forward position.
- Alberta Golf maintains and encourages a respectful and inclusive environment under its safe sport policy.

Attire Not Permitted:

- Jeans of any kind or color, cut-offs, tennis shorts, rugger/cargo pants or shorts (outside external pocket), tank tops, halter tops, mesh shirts, workout attire, or t-shirts.

- Hats or visors in the clubhouse, unless permitted by the host club.
- If the host facility has additional restrictions, it will be communicated to, and followed by, all players.
- Any other inappropriate attire determined by the Tournament Committee.

Footwear Not Permitted:

- Golf shoes with spikes comprised either entirely or partially of metal (if such metal may come in contact with the course) are prohibited during the competition rounds, including the official practice round(s).

Caddies: Are subject to the same footwear restrictions as players. Smooth rubber sole shoes are preferred (i.e. running shoes).

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.

Code of Conduct Policy

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.

Spectator and Parent Code of Conduct Policy

Violations of the Code of Conduct:

- Family members or friends can follow and observe play but must not interfere, give advice or impede play in any way.
 - A distance of 30 yards must be kept at all times.
- 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.
- 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.

- 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 expressed 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 expressed permission of the Committee.
- Intervening with referees administering rulings.

Respecting the Host Facility:

- Respect the host facility policy if cell phones are prohibited.
- Ensuring all waste is in appropriate bins.
- Respecting any club imposed area restrictions.

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.



Withdrawal, DNS and DNF Policy

Withdrawal from Championships or Qualifiers, Prior to Event

- Players who withdraw from any event prior to registration closing will receive a refund of the paid fee, minus a \$15 administrative fee.
 - *Registration closes 10 days prior to the first round of play.*
- Players who withdraw following registration closing will not receive a refund of the paid fee less \$15, unless:
 - Their spot in the field is replaced by another player,
 - Player provides a medical note stating withdrawal is due to injury,
 - An unavoidable emergency.

Did Not Finish (DNF, player withdraws from event during championship) Did Not Show (DNS)

- Justified DNF from championships, during play, may include,
 - Injury sustained during play,
 - An unavoidable emergency.
- Unjustified DNF from championships, during play will be addressed by tournament committee.

- If player is found to DNF with a purpose deemed unjustified, the following actions will be taken,
 - First unjustified withdrawal, letter acknowledgment.
 - Second unjustified withdrawal, phone call discussion.
 - Third unjustified withdrawal, suspension of competing.
 - *Severity of suspension to be determined by the tournament committee*





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