



Local Rules - Pace of Play – Code of Conduct

A. LOCAL RULES ARBORETUM COURSE

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*.

1. Out of Bounds (Rule 18.2) are defined by the course hedges, fences, white lines or white stakes on holes **5, 6, 9, 15** and **18**.

All **boundary objects** are treated as *immovable obstructions*.

On hole **11**, the part adjacent to hole 1 of the Parc Course, on the right-hand side defined with white stakes is *out of bounds*. The out of bounds limit ends at the two white stakes.

2. Penalty Areas (Rule 17)

2.1 Penalty areas are defined by **red stakes** and/or **red lines**.

2.2 Penalty Areas – No Play Zone – No Entry Zone (Rule 17.1e & Code of Conduct). All Areas defined by **red stakes with green tops** are *penalty areas*, **no play zones** and **no entry zones**. It is forbidden to enter these areas to search for or recover a ball. Retrieving a ball at arm's length without entering the area is permitted.

The player must take a penalty relief.

Where dropping zones (DZ) are marked for a *penalty area*, they are *relief area's* as an additional option for the penalty relief.

All **red stakes with green tops** are treated as **immovable obstructions** from which free relief is allowed under Rule 16.1.

On hole 12:

If a player's ball is in this *penalty area*, including when it is *known or virtually certain* to be in this *penalty area* even though not found, the player has only two relief options, each for one penalty stroke:

- Player may take *stroke and distance* relief under Rule 17.1d(1), or
- If a dropping zone is marked: player may drop the original ball or another ball in the dropping zone (DZ). The dropping zone is a *relief area* under Rule 14.3. (MLR E-1.3)

If a player's ball lies on the path (*general area*) between the two *penalty areas* - no play - no entry zones and one of these zones interferes with the player's *stance* or area of intended swing, the player must take free relief under Rule 16.1b.

On hole 5 and hole 15:

When red *penalty area's* have been marked to the left of **hole 5** & to the right of **hole 15**, they extend up to infinity.

3. Abnormal course conditions (including Immovable Obstructions) (Rule 16.1)

3.1 Ground under repair is defined by any area encircled by:

- White lines: free relief is optional under Rule 16.1b.
- Blue lines or blue stakes with green tops: **Ground Under Repair - No Play Zone**: free relief is mandatory under Rule 16.1f.

3.2 Protection for young trees/plantations

In the *general area* exclusively, young plantations identified by stakes or circled by wood chips dispersed to protect them, are to be treated as **abnormal course conditions - no play zones** from which free relief is mandatory.

If a player's ball lies on or touches such plantations or wood chips or when such plantations or wood chips area interferes with the player's area of intended *stance* or area of intended swing, the player **must** take free relief under Rule 16.1f (*MLR E-10*)

3.3 On hole 17: the nursery green is treated as **Ground Under Repair - No Play Zone**. The player take free relief under Rule 16.1f. As an extra option the player may drop a ball in the Dropping Zone (DZ).

3.4 Immovable Obstructions

- All roads covered with gravel,
 - All paths covered by synthetic rubber and artificial turf.
- The player is allowed to take free relief.

3.5 Bunker-furrows.

Areas in *bunkers* where sand has been removed by movement of water resulting in deep furrows through the sand are *Ground under Repair (GUR)*. The player is allowed free relief in the *bunker* or relief with one stroke penalty outside of the *bunker* using the back-on-the-line relief option under R16.1c. (*MLR F-1*)

3.6 Sprinkler-head close to putting green

The player has an extra option to take relief from sprinkler-heads when:

- The ball and the *immovable obstruction* are both in part of *general area* cut to fairway height or less.
- The *immovable obstruction* is on the *line of play* and is:
 - On or within 2 *club-lengths* of the *putting green*, and
 - Within 2 *club-lengths* of the ball.

But complete relief must be taken, which includes both physical and *line of play* interference. (*MLR F-5.2*)

3.7 Fallen Trees.

Fallen trees which are still attached to their stumps, or tree stumps which are in the process of being unearthed or tree trunks that are cut up and piled for later removal, are *Ground Under Repair (GUR)*. Player is allowed free relief under Rule 16.1b.

**Penalty for playing ball from a wrong place in breach of above local rules:
General Penalty under Rule 14.7a.**

4. Movable Obstruction (Rule 15)

Rope netting around plantations or trees are *movable obstructions*. If player's ball lies within the area encircled by the rope, the player is allowed to remove the rope without penalty. If this causes the ball to move, the player must replace the ball without penalty.

5. Suspension of play (Rule 5.7)

The following signals will be used to suspend or resume play.

- **Immediate stop / dangerous situation:** one prolonged note of the siren: the player **MUST** stop play at once.
- **Normal non-dangerous stop:** three consecutive short notes of the siren, repeated.
- **Resume play:** two consecutive short notes of siren, repeated.

Penalty for breach of Rule 5.7b: Disqualification

6. Preferred lies

When preferred lies are allowed by the *Committee* : when a player's ball lies in a part of the *general area* cut to fairway height or less, the player is allowed free relief once by *placing* a ball within **the length of one closed scorecard** (15 cm) from the spot of the original ball but in the *general area* and not nearer the hole.

(MLR E-3)

Penalty for playing ball from a wrong place in breach of above LR: General Penalty under Rule 14.7a.

7. Compulsory Use of Fairway Mats

When the *Committee* requires the use of mats: when a player's ball lies in a part of the *general area* cut to fairway height or less and a putter is not being used for the *stroke*, the player must take free relief by lifting the original ball and placing the original ball or another ball on an artificial mat and play it from there. The mat must be placed on top of the spot where the ball came to rest.

If a ball when placed rolls off the mat, the player must try to place it a second time. If the ball again does not stay on the mat, the mat must be moved to the nearest spot, not nearer the hole, where the ball will come to rest on the mat when placed.

If the ball on the mat is accidentally moved before a stroke is made, there is no penalty and the ball must be placed again on the mat.

If a tee is used to secure the mat into the ground, the ball must not be placed on the tee. If a putter is being used for next *stroke* played from outside the putting green, the artificial mat may not be used. (MLR E-12)

Penalty for playing ball from a wrong place in breach of above LR: General Penalty under Rule 14.7a.

B. PACE OF PLAY

The *Committee* highly recommends players to play 'ready golf'.

Groups of players are supposed to finish their *round* within the starting interval of the group in front of them and within the time limit set by the *Committee* to complete the *round* as stated on the score card.

For information, the following time limits apply:

- Single, flights of 2 balls: 3h21 min
- Single, flights of 3 balls: 3h42 min
- Four-ball, flights of 4 balls: 4h00 min

C. CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

1 No play - no entry zones

It is forbidden to enter these areas even to recover a ball. Retrieving a ball at arm's length without entering the area is permitted.

Penalty for breach of this point of code of conduct:

- **First breach: one penalty stroke**
- **Second breach: *General Penalty***
- **Third breach: disqualification (*Committee decision*)**

2. Good golfing practices

- Avoid slow play.
- Keep your pace with the flight in front of you.
- Respect the time par written on your score card.
- Replace divots carefully, even in the rough.
- Rake and smooth footprints in bunkers.
- Repair your pitch marks (and others) on putting greens.
- No passing with a golf cart / trolley between a bunker and a green.
- Avoid no show at the tee offs even for casual play.

3. General behaviour

- All sports facilities and club buildings are **non-smoking**.
- Telephones and other electronic devices should be always turned to silent mode or switched off.
- Social media: the Royal Golf Club of Belgium strictly prohibits any commercial use of photos, videos, or written references related to the Club. Members and guests may not share or discuss the Club, its members, activities, events, or policies on social or professional media platforms.

4. Dress Code

All members and visitors are required to wear elegant attire at all times and are requested to respect the dress code as well as the staff that will enforce them. Please refer to the **separate document** available on the web site for details on this Dress Code.

Sanctions for breach of points 2, 3 and 4 of code of conduct

- **First breach : oral warning**
- **Second breach: written warning**
- **Third breach: *Committee decision***