

TEMPORARY LOCAL RULES THAT MODIFY THE RULES OF GOLF FOR COVID-19

On 19/3/2020, the R&A announced a series of temporary measures to combat the hygiene implications associated with some of the requirements of the Rules of Golf. These temporary measures allow the Rules of Golf, and Model Local Rules, to be modified as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.

The Golf Committee has decided to implement the following Local Rules due the COVID-19 outbreak.

1. Score cards: In view of concerns about handling and exchanging scorecards, on a temporary basis, the Golf Committee has decided to allow methods of scoring in Stroke play, Stableford and Par that do not strictly comply with Rule 3.3b, or do not comply with the normal methods used under Rule 3.3b.

a) Players may enter their own hole scores on the scorecard

b) It is not necessary to have a marker physically certify the player's hole scores, but some form of verbal certification should take place.

2. Flagsticks: Players must leave the flagstick in the hole at all times. If a player removes the flag stick they breach the Local Rule and thus incur a penalty of two strokes. If a player plays the ball into the hole with the flag stick removed, they have breached the Local Rule and thus incur a penalty of two strokes.

Note: The following Rule from the Rules of Golf

Rule 13 c Ball Resting Against Flagstick in Hole

If a player's ball comes to rest against the flagstick left in the hole:

If any part of the ball is in the hole below the surface of the putting green, the ball is treated as holed even if the entire ball is not below the surface.

3. Bunkers: As the rakes have been removed from the course the Committee recognises that bunkers may not be smoothed as effectively as when rakes are on the course. To rectify this problem, a player in a bunker may lift their ball, smooth / repair the area where the ball was with foot or club, and then replace the ball as near as possible to where it was originally. Players are encouraged to smooth the area with the player's foot or club after the shot.

4. Pace of Play: The pace of play will be monitored and enforced under Rule 5.6b(3), see the Pace of Play document for details.