



## 2020 CONDITIONS OF COMPETITIONS AND STANDARD LOCAL RULES

Play is governed by the 2020 Golf Canada Rules of Golf and, where applicable, by the following Local Rules and Conditions of Competition, subject to changes, additions or deletions for particular Championships by the Tournament Rules Committee of Vancouver Golf Tour for the particular Championship. Complete text of the Rules and Appendices may be found in the 2020 Official Guide to the Rules of Golf.

Unless otherwise noted, penalty for breach of a Condition or Local Rule is:

**Stroke Play – two strokes**

**Match Play – loss of hole**

### SECTION A: CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION

**1. ELIGIBILITY** – Players must meet the eligibility provisions established in the entry form or relevant webpage on [vancouvergolftour.com](http://vancouvergolftour.com) for the specific Championship.

**2. SPECIFICATION OF THE BALL** – The ball the player plays must be named on the current List of Conforming Golf Balls recognized Golf Canada. The current List of Conforming Balls is available in the Vancouver Golf Tour Tournament Office.

Penalty for Breach of Condition: Disqualification.

**3. SPECIFICATION OF DRIVER HEAD** – Any driver the player carries must have a club head, identified by model and loft, that is named on the current List of Conforming Driver Heads recognized by Golf Canada. The current List of Conforming Driver Heads is available in the Vancouver Golf Tour Tournament Office.

Penalty for Breach of Condition: See Penalty Statement for Rule 4-1a.

**4. CADDIES** – In a stroke play competition where caddies are permitted, a player is prohibited from having another competitor serve as his caddy during the stipulated round. Caddies must be at least 12 years of age.

Penalty for breach of Condition: See Penalty Statement for Rule 10.3.(Model Local Rule H-1.2)

**5. PACE OF PLAY** - Vancouver Golf Tour Pace of Play Policy is in effect at all 2020 events. Players must ensure they complete groups of holes and the stipulated round within the times established by the Tournament Rules Committee. The full policy is available in the Tournament office and starting tee.

**Definition of “out of Position** - The first group off a starting tee will be considered “out of position” if it exceeds the required checkpoint time at a checkpoint hole. A first group becomes a following group when it catches up to another group.

A following group will be considered “out of position” if it exceeds the required checkpoint time AND is more than 14 minutes behind the group in front of them at that checkpoint.

A group that is out of position at a checkpoint hole will receive a warning for the first instance. The warning will not be rescinded. Each player in a group that is out of position at a subsequent checkpoint hole may be liable to penalty stroke(s).

Note that Rule 5.6 (Unreasonable Delay; Prompt Pace of Play) is still applicable.

**6. DISCONTINUANCE OF PLAY – Note to Rule 5.7 is in effect** - The course and all practice areas are closed when play is suspended for a dangerous situation until the Vancouver Golf Tour Rules Committee has declared them open. A player using such practice areas will be subject to disqualification.

**Note:** A suspension for a dangerous situation will be signalled by one prolonged air horn note. All other types of suspensions will be signalled by three consecutive air horn notes. Resumption of play will be signalled by two short air horn notes.

**7. PRACTICE** – In stroke play competition, a player must not practice on or near the putting green of the hole last played or roll a ball on the putting green of the hole last played (Rule 5.5b, Model Local Rule 8I 1-2)

**8. TRANSPORTATION** – Players must not ride on any form of transportation during a stipulated round unless authorized by the Committee. See the Vancouver Golf Tour Transportation Policy for medical exemptions.

Penalty for Breach of Condition: See Penalty Statement in Model Local Rule G-6.

**9. RETURNING SCORE CARD**- A player's score card has been returned to the Committee when the player has completed exited the defined scoring area, unless the player, prior to leaving, verbally informs the Committee of his intention to leave the score area and receives the Committee's permission to do so.

**10. TIES** – Ties for first place will be decided by hole by hole playoff, Match Play Matches will be extended hole by hole and all other ties will be broken by matching scorecard, as per Golf Canada recommendations.

**11. CLOSE OF COMPETITION** - 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.

**12. PLAYING PROVISIONAL BALL** - IF, AFTER PLAYING A SHOT, YOU THINK YOUR BALL MAY BE LOST OUTSIDE A PENALTY AREA OR OUT OF BOUNDS YOU SHOULD PLAY A PROVISIONAL BALL. YOU MUST ANNOUNCE THAT IT IS A PROVISIONAL BALL AND PLAY IT BEFORE YOU GO FORWARD TO SEARCH FOR THE ORIGINAL BALL.

IF THE ORIGINAL BALL IS LOST (OTHER THAN IN A PENALTY AREA) OR OUT OF BOUNDS, YOU MUST CONTINUE WITH THE PROVISIONAL BALL, UNDER PENALTY OF ONE STROKE. IF THE ORIGINAL BALL IS FOUND IN BOUNDS WITHIN 3 MINUTES, YOU MUST CONTINUE PLAY OF THE HOLE WITH IT, AND MUST STOP PLAYING THE PROVISIONAL BALL.

**13. PENALTY AREA Rule 17 (Yellow-staked)** - If your ball is in a penalty area (yellow stakes and/or lines) you may play the ball as it lies or, under penalty of one stroke:

- Play a ball from where your last shot was played, or
- Drop a ball in a relief area that is based on a reference line going straight back from the hole through the estimated point where the original ball last crossed the edge of the penalty area. (see Rule 14.3)

**14. RED PENALTY AREA (Red-staked)** If your ball is in a red penalty area (red stakes and/or lines), in addition to the options for a ball in a yellow-staked penalty area (see above), under penalty of one stroke, you may take lateral relief. Your relief area is two club-lengths from the point where the ball last crossed the edge of the red penalty area.

## **15. CODE OF CONDUCT – RULE 1.2**

VGT 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 here: [http://britishcolumbiagolf.org/images/Player\\_Code\\_of\\_Conduct\\_2020.pdf](http://britishcolumbiagolf.org/images/Player_Code_of_Conduct_2020.pdf)

The VGT Tournament Committee may assess any or all of the following penalties outlined in the structure below, based on the severity and frequency of the violation:

1st offence = Warning;

2nd offence = One penalty stroke;

3rd Offence = 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.*

## SECTION B: LOCAL RULES

### 1. ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITIONS – Rule 16- Ground Under Repair includes:

- a) Areas defined by white lines;
- b) French Drains filled with stones;
- c) Seams of Cut Turf – Through the green, seams of cut turf (not the turf itself) are deemed to be ground under repair. All seams in the cut turf area are considered the same seam. However, interference by a seam with the player's stance is deemed not to be, of itself, interference under Rule 16.1. If the ball lies in or touches the seam or the seam interferes with the area of intended swing, relief is available under Rule 16.1. All seams within the cut turf area are considered the same seam for the purposes of defining a relief area (see rule 14.3).

**2. IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS** – Rule 16 - White line areas tying into artificially surfaced roads, paths or obstructions are deemed to have the same status as the road, path or obstruction and are not ground under repair.

**3. WOOD CHIPS AND MULCH** - Wood chips and mulch are loose impediments. Rule 15.1 applies.

**4. FLOWER BEDS** Flower bed areas are considered ground under repair from which play is prohibited. If a player's ball lies in the area, or if it interferes with the player's stance or area of intended swing, the player must take relief under Rule 16.1.

### 5. INTEGRAL PARTS OF THE COURSE

- a) Wrappings, wires, cables and other objects when closely attached to trees;
- b) Artificial walls and/or pilings used to define the margin of bunkers. Such walls and/or pilings are through the green.

**6. PERMANENT ELEVATED POWER LINES OR CABLES** - If a ball strikes a permanent elevated power line or cable, the stroke **MUST** be cancelled, and the player must play a ball as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was last played in accordance with Rule 14.6.

**7. OUT OF BOUNDS** – Rule 18 - When white stakes or fences are used, the out of bounds is determined by the nearest inside points of the stakes or fence posts at ground level (excludes angled supports). When a white line defines out of bounds, the line itself is out of bounds. A ball is out of bounds when all of it lies out of bounds. A ball that crosses a public road defined as out of bounds and comes to rest beyond that road is out of bounds, even though it may lie on another part of the course.

**8. DISTANCE MEASURING DEVICES** – In this competition, a player may obtain distance information by use of a distance-measuring device. If, during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance-measuring device to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his play (e.g. elevation changes, wind speed, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 4.3a.

### World Handicap System (WHS)

This notice is to advise all VGT Amateur players of the launch of the **World Handicap System** effective January 1, 2020.

Under the **New World Handicap System** and under VGT's **handicapping policy**, it is a requirement for players to enter **ALL** your round scores "**Hole by Hole**" to avoid handicap errors and/or confusion.

For detailed information on the new system please follow this link: <https://golfcanada.ca/article/world-handicap-system-coming-to-canada-in-january-2020>

A full list of Policies and procedures for the 2020 VGT Season can be found online at [www.vancouvergolftour.com/legal](http://www.vancouvergolftour.com/legal).