



## 2022 CONDITIONS OF COMPETITIONS AND STANDARD LOCAL RULES

Play is governed by the 2019 Golf Canada Rules of Golf and, where applicable, by the following Local Rules and Conditions of Competition, subject to changes, additions or deletions in particular events by the Tournament Rules Committee of Vancouver Golf Tour (hereafter identified as VGT). Complete text of the Rules and Appendices may be found in the 2019 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 VGT Championship.

#### 2. SPECIFICATIONS OF CLUBS AND THE BALL –

- List of Conforming Driver Heads: Model Local Rule G-1 is in effect.  
Penalty for making a stroke with a club in breach of this Local Rule: **Disqualification**
- List of Conforming Golf Balls: Model Local Rule G-3 is in effect.  
Penalty for making a stroke with a ball in breach of this Local Rule: **Disqualification**
- Replacing Club that is Broken or Significantly Damaged: Model Local Rule G-9 is in effect. When replacing a club, the player must immediately take the broken or significantly damaged club out of play, using the procedure in Rule 4.1c(1)  
Penalty for Breach of Local Rule—**See Rule 4.1b.**
- Prohibiting Use of Clubs Longer than 46 inches: Model Local Rule G-10 is in effect for all tournaments. In making a stroke, the player must not use a club, except for a putter, which exceeds 46 inches in length.  
Penalty for making a stroke with a club in breach of this Local Rule: Disqualification.

**Note:** An updated List of Conforming Clubs and Ball is available at VGT tournament office or [golfcanada.ca/rules](http://golfcanada.ca/rules).

**3. BALL PLAYED FROM OUTSIDE RELIEF AREA WHEN TAKING BACK-ON-LINE RELIEF**---Model Local Rule E-12 is in effect. This applies in the application of Rules 16.1c(2), 17.1d(2), 19.2b, 19.3b.

**4. CADDIES** – In a stroke play competition where caddies are permitted, caddies must be at least 12 years of age and a player is prohibited from having a fellow competitor serve as his caddie.

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

**5. PACE OF PLAY** – VGT Pace of Play Policy is in effect at all 2022 events. Players must ensure they complete specific groups of holes and the stipulated round within the times established by the Tournament Rules Committee. The full policy is available in the VGT office and at the 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 VGT Rules Committee has declared them open. A player using such practice areas will be subject to disqualification.

- **Immediate Suspension (Dangerous Situation):** One prolonged note of the air horn
- **Normal Suspension (Non-Dangerous Situation):** Three short notes of the air horn.
- **Resume Play:** Two short notes of the air horn.

## **7. PRACTICE – (Rule 5.2 and 5.5)**

- **Before or between rounds in Stroke Play**—Model Local Rule I-1.1 is in effect and Rule 5.2b is modified in this way: A player must not practice on the competition course on the day of a competition or between rounds.

**Penalty for first breach:** General penalty (applied to the player’s first hole).

**Penalty for second breach:** Disqualification.

- **Between Holes in Stroke Play**—Model Local Rule I-2 is in effect and Rule 5.5b is modified in the 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.

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

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

**9. LIMITING WHEN STROKE MADE FROM PUTTING GREEN MUST BE REPLAYED UNDER EXCEPTION 2 TO RULE 11.1b**—Model Local Rule D-7 is in effect. Exception 2 to Rule 11.1b applies, except that when a ball played from the putting green accidentally hits:

- the player,
- the club used by the player to make the stroke or
- an animal defined as a loose impediment (that is, worms, insects and similar animals that can be removed easily).

the stroke counts and the ball must be played as it lies.

Penalty for Playing Ball from a Wrong Place in Breach of Local Rule: **General Penalty** (Rule 14.7)

**10. WOOD CHIPS AND MULCH**—Wood chips and mulch are loose impediments.

**11. INTEGRAL OBJECTS**—The following are integral objects from which free relief is not allowed:

- The portion of cables, wires, wrappings and other similar objects closely attached to trees;
- Artificial retaining walls and/or pilings when located within penalty areas or which are adjacent to the edge of bunkers;
- 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;
- Closed gates attached to objects defining out of bounds.

**12. PERMANENT ELEVATED POWER LINES OR CABLES**—Model Local Rule E-11 is in effect and is modified as follows:

- If it is known or virtually certain that a player's ball hit a permanent elevated power line or cable in bounds, the stroke does not count.
- The player must play a ball without penalty from where the previous stroke was made in accordance with Rule 14.6

**13. TEMPORARY IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS**—Model Local Rule F23 is in effect. Temporary Immovable Obstructions include, but are not limited to, starting, scoring and pace of play tents.

**14. PENALTY AREAS (RULE 17)**—When a red penalty area is defined on only one side, it is deemed to extend to infinity. When a red penalty area adjoins a boundary, the penalty area edge extends to and coincides with the boundary.

**15. OUT OF BOUNDS** – Rule 18 - When white stakes or fences are used, 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.

**16. 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).

**17. FLOWER BEDS**—are considered No Play Zones (Rule 16.1f). The player must take relief, no penalty.

**18. DISTANCE MEASURING DEVICES** – In VGT competitions, 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.

**19. RETURNING SCORE CARD**- A player's score card has been returned to the Committee when the player has completely 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.

**20. TIES** – Unless otherwise notified on the Terms of Competition, all ties for first place overall 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 scores as per Golf Canada recommendations.

**21. 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.

## **22. 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 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.

## **23. DRESS CODE:**

The policy of this Dress Code governs all Vancouver Golf Tour Championships and all competitors representing the Vancouver Golf Tour. All competitors are required to present a neat appearance, in both clothing and personal grooming, and are required at all times to maintain an acceptable standard of dress both on the course and in the precinct of the clubhouse.

If the host club provides a dress code with further restrictions, competitors are required to abide by such host club policy.

### **MALE PROFESSIONALS**

Male Professionals are required to wear long pants in all VGT Championships unless otherwise noted in the local rules.

Shirts must have collars (including mock neck) and sleeves.

Denim, T-shirts or shorts on the premises of a golf course hosting a championship is strictly prohibited.

*Exception:* In the best interests of our members and competitors, the VGT seeks to protect the safety and well being of all competitors. Only under extreme weather conditions (temperatures exceeding 30 degrees Celsius) will shorts be permitted.

When this condition is in effect, the following guidelines apply:

- Shorts with an elasticized waist, shorts supported by a drawstring, shorts extended below the knee and shorts with large "cargo" style pockets are all prohibited.
  - Socks must be worn at all times. Ankle socks are permitted, as long as they can be seen with shoes on.
- Note: Penalty for breach of this condition is a 2-shot penalty for first breach and DISQUALIFICATION for any further breaches.

### **MALE AMATEURS**

Shirts must have collars (including mock neck) and sleeves.

Denim or T-shirts on the premises of a golf course hosting a championship is strictly prohibited.

The following guidelines also apply:

- Shorts with an elasticized waist, shorts supported by a drawstring, shorts extended below the knee and shorts with large "cargo" style pockets are all prohibited.
- Socks must be worn at all times. Ankle socks are permitted as long as they can be seen with shoes on.

Note: Penalty for breach of this condition is a 2-shot penalty for first breach and DISQUALIFICATION for Any further breaches.

### **FEMALE COMPETITORS**

If the host club provides a dress code with further restrictions, competitors are required to abide by such host club policy.

Sleeveless shirts with or without collar MUST have minimum 4-inch seam at the shoulder. TANK TOPS ARE NOT PERMITTED.

Denim, spandex or T-shirts on the premises of a golf course hosting a championship is strictly prohibited. Tops may be worn tucked or untucked, but NO midriff or cleavage can be shown.

*Pants, capris, skorts and shorts are permitted. Skorts and shorts MUST extend below fingertips when arm is placed straight down the side of leg.*

*Penalty for breach of this condition is 2 shots for the first breach and DISQUALIFICATION for any further breaches.*

### **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 2021 VGT Season can be found online at [www.vancouvergolftour.com](http://www.vancouvergolftour.com)