



2025 CONDITIONS OF COMPETITIONS AND STANDARD LOCAL RULES

Play is governed by the 2023 Golf Canada Rules of Golf and, where applicable, by the following Local Rules and Terms 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 2023 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

1. ELIGIBILITY – Players must meet the eligibility provisions established in the entry form or relevant webpage on vancouvergolftour.com for the specific **VGT** Championship.

2. SPECIFICATION OF CLUBS AND THE BALL –

- a. 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.**
- b. Groove and Punch Mark Specifications: Model Local Rule G-3 is in effect but is modified as the exception to G-2 does not apply.
Penalty for making a stroke with a club in breach of this Local Rule: **Disqualification**
- c. 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.**
- d. Replacing Club that is Broken or Significantly Damaged—Model Local Rule G-9 is in effect.

Penalty for Breach of Local Rule—**See Rule 4.1b.**

NOTE: An updated List of Conforming Clubs and Balls is available via golfcanada.ca

3. CADDIES – Rule 10.3a is modified in this way: A player must not have another player in the competition, who has played or will play in the same round, as their caddie during round. Caddie 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)

4. PACE OF PLAY – VGT Pace of Play Policy is in effect at all 2025 events and will be communicated prior to the start of the competition. Players must ensure they complete specific groups of holes and the stipulated round within the times established by the Tournament Committee. The full policy is available in the VGT office and the starting tee. (Notice to Players)

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

5. STOPPING AND RESUMING PLAY -- (RULES 5-7) MODEL LOCAL RULE J-1 IS IN EFFECT AS FOLLOWS:

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

NOTE: During an immediate suspension for a dangerous situation, all practice areas are closed until the Tournament Committee has declared them open. Players who practice on closed practice areas will be asked to stop practicing. Players who fail to do so will be subject to penalties under the Code of Conduct.

6. PRACTICE -- (Rule 5.2 and 5.5)

- a. **Before or between rounds in Stroke Play**—Model Local Rule I-1.2 is in effect and Rule 5.2b is

modified in this way:

- A player must not practice on the competition course (except on or near their first teeing area or any practice area) before or between rounds
- Penalty for the first breach: **General Penalty** (applied to the player's first hole)
- Penalty for the second breach: **Disqualification**

b. **Between holes in Stroke Play**—Model Local Rule I.2 is in effect and Rule 5.5b is modified in this way: Between the play of two holes, a player must not:

- Make any practice stroke on or near the putting green of the hole just completed, or
- Test the surface of that putting green by rubbing the putting green or rolling a ball.

7. ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITIONS (Including Immovable Obstructions—(Rule 16)

Ground Under Repair—Rule 16.1 includes:

- Areas defined by white lines;
- French drains filled with stones;
- Seams of Cut Turf –Model Local Rule F-7 is in effect. 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:
 - Ball in the General Area: The player may take relief under 16.1b
 - Ball on Putting Green: The player may take relief under 16.1d

But the interference does not exist if the seam only interferes with the player's stance. All seams within the area of cut turf are treated as the same seam in taking relief.

d. IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS – Rule 16 - White line areas of ground under repair and the artificially surfaced road or path or other identified obstruction that tie into are treated as a single abnormal course condition when taking relief under 16.1.

8. IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS CLOSE TO PUTTING GREENS—Model Local Rule F-5.2 is in effect. For a ball in the general area, relief may be taken under Rule 16.1b when both the ball and obstruction lie in an area cut to fairway height or less. The ball must be within two club-lengths of the obstruction and the obstruction must be located:

- On or within two club-lengths of the putting green and;
- On the player's line of play.

9. 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.

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

11. OUT OF BOUNDS –Rule 18.2—Defined by the line between the course-side points at ground level of white dots, lines, stakes and posts of fences defining out of bounds. A ball is out of bounds when it is beyond any wall defining the boundary of the course.

Closed gates that are attached to boundary walls and fences are part of the boundary object. Relief is not allowed from such a gate under Rules 15.2 or 16.1. **BUT** an open gate is not treated as part of the boundary object and may be closed or moved to a different position. Model Local Rule F-26 is in effect

12. INTEGRAL PARTS OF THE COURSE—The following are integral objects from which free relief is not allowed:

- Wrappings, wires, cables and other objects when **closely** attached to trees;
- Artificial walls and/or pilings when located within penalty areas or which are adjacent to the edge of bunkers.

- c) Bunker liners in their intended position. An exposed bunker liner may be treated as ground under repair by the Committee. However, interference by a bunker liner does not exist if the bunker liner only interferes with a player's stance

13. 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** cancel the stroke and play a ball without penalty from where the previous stroke was made in accordance with Rule 14.6

14. ANIMALS NEAR BALL—Model Local Rule E-13 is in effect. An animal that is not defined as a loose impediment and is touching or near a player's ball may be removed. If the ball moves while removing the animal, there is no penalty and the ball must be replaced.

15. TEMPORARY IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS—Model Local Rule F-23 is in effect. Temporary Immovable Obstructions include, but are not limited to, starting, scoring and on course tents.

16. 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: https://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 on or off the golf course. In cases of serious misconduct off the golf course, the Committee may indefinitely suspend a player for such an offence.

17. TRANSPORTATION – Model Local Rule G-6 is in effect and is modified as follows: During a round, players with a 5.0 or less handicap and their caddies must not ride on any form of motorized transportation unless authorized or later approved by the Tournament Committee.

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

18. SCORECARD RESPONSIBILITIES—

- **Scorecard Returned**—The scorecard of a player or a side is returned to the Committee 15 minutes after the scorecard is accepted into the electronic scoring system. See Supplement to the Notice to Players for all relevant information.
- **Missing Player or Marker Certification**—Model Local Rule L-1 is in effect and Rule 3.3b(2) is modified in this way—if a player returns a scorecard without the hole scores being certified either by the player, the marker or both, the player gets the **General Penalty**. The penalty applies to the last hole of the player's round.

19. 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 **scores as per Golf Canada recommendations**.

20. 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 validated in the scoring system and approved by the Committee.

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 2024 VGT Season can be found online at www.vancouvergolftour.com/legal.