



CYPRUS GOLF FEDERATION
TERMS OF COMPETITION and STANDARD LOCAL RULES 2026

Each Competitor is strongly advised to thoroughly read all CGF documentation.

The following Local Rules and Terms of Competition, together with any additions or amendments published by the Cyprus Golf Federation (CGF) at the golf course, will apply to all events run by the CGF.

For the full text of any Local Rule referenced below, please refer to the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf effective January 2023 and the Clarifications updated quarterly by the R&A.

Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for a breach of a Local Rule is the general penalty (loss of hole in match play or two penalty strokes in stroke play).

TERMS OF COMPETITION

1. Eligibility

Players must meet the eligibility provisions established in the relevant Conditions of Entry for the specific event.

2. Player Conduct/Expected Behaviour

CGF in all its competitions, expect standards of behaviour in line with Rule 1.2a.

The Committee may disqualify a player for acting contrary to the spirit of the game if it finds that the player has committed Serious Misconduct.

3. Live Scoring

In some of the CGF competitions, live scoring will be in operation. Players must co-operate and fully comply with live scoring requirements, including any transition to individual smart phone input.

4. Pace of Play (Rule 5.6)

Each hole has been given a maximum completion time based upon the length and difficulty of the hole. The maximum time allotted for the completion of 18 holes will be available prior to play from the Tournament Committee. The Pace of Play Policy below will be strictly enforced.

A player must not unreasonably delay play, either when playing a hole or between two holes. A player may be allowed a short delay for certain reasons, such as:

- *When the player seeks help from a referee or the Committee,*
- *When the player becomes injured or ill, or*
- *When there is another good reason.*

<i>1 Bad Time</i>	-	<i>Verbal warning from Referee (a further Bad Time they will be penalized)</i>
		<i><u>Stroke Play</u></i>
		<i><u>Match Play</u></i>
<i>2 Bad Times</i>	-	<i>One Stroke Penalty</i>
<i>3 Bad Times</i>	-	<i>Additional Two Penalty Strokes</i>
<i>4 Bad Times</i>	-	<i>Disqualification</i>

5. Suspension of Play

Please refer to the instructions on the reverse of the Additional Local Rules at each event.

6. Practice (Rule 5.2) – to ensure fairness for all competitors

- a. In match play, Rule 5.2a is modified in this way: A player must not practise on the competition course before or between rounds.
- b. In stroke play, Rule 5.2b is modified in this way: A player must not practise on the competition course before or between rounds.

Exception: All recognised practice areas within the bounds of the course may be used by the players for practise on any day of the competition.

7. Interaction with CGF Referees, Officials, Marshals, and Ball Spotters

- a. Players must indicate the direction of their golf ball to assist any Ball Spotters.
- b. Where the CGF has provided staff for some of its events, Instructions by a CGF Referee; Tournament Director or an authorised CGF Official MUST be followed.
- c. If a Referee is not available, in Stroke Play, the player is required to announce and play two balls, the original ball plus a second ball to allow for penalty strokes after play is completed. The Rules of Golf (20.1) explain the procedure.

8. Caddies

Generally, Caddies are allowed. However, they must be over 16 years of age, must not be a Professional golfer or a player in the same event. Additionally, due to logistics at some venues (e.g. Buggy only course) Caddies will not be permitted (Refer to the Conditions of Entry). Exceptionally, a Registered Disabled Competitor is permitted a Caddie at buggy only courses.

In CGF events where caddies are allowed, **a player must register** their Caddy **before play each day's play** of the event. The Caddy will be required to wear the designated armband when on the course to indicate official authorisation has been given. Caddies must conduct themselves in the same manner expected of the player, including application of any penalties. Specific defined details will be issued at the event including any restriction of duties. Unregistered Caddies will be designated as a spectator and the player may be subject to penalties.

9. Trolley Pushers / Bag Carriers

Some events maybe restricted to partial help for players. In these cases, trolley pushers and bag carriers are specifically there to transport the player's clubs; bag and pass equipment to the player only when the player requests it. They must not go onto the Putting Green. They must not give advice to the player.

10. Transportation – Please refer to the Conditions of Entry

Walking Only Competition (Buggies Not Allowed) - During a round, a player or caddie must not ride on any form of motorised transportation except as authorised (or later approved by the Committee). The player gets the General Penalty for each hole during which there is a breach.

Officially Registered Disabled Competitors – May use a buggy in a Walking Only competition.

A player who will play, or has played, under penalty of Stroke and Distance is always authorised to ride on motorised transportation if this is available and does not delay play.

Buggies Allowed - The specific event Conditions of Entry clearly state when buggies are permitted.

11. Phones and Other Communication Devices

The use of phones is permitted; however devices must be in “**silent**” mode. Players must ensure they do not distract other golfers or cause a delay in play. Phone calls should only be for emergency purposes or contacting on-course referees for a ruling. Live scoring actions are permitted.

12. Spectators - When allowed by the Host Course

Spectators are observers only and must not walk in close proximity to players, must not communicate in any manner (verbally or signals) with them or interfere with any Officials performing their duties during the competition rounds.

With the specific exception of helping to search for a lost ball, spectators (team managers, relatives, friends, photographers, etc.) following play are prohibited from fairways; tee boxes and putting greens, they may walk in the semi-rough and on paths. They may hand food, drink and medication (including sunscreen and insect repellent) to the player only after completion of a hole.

A player must ask a Spectator giving advice to stop. Repeated advice from that same person means the player gets the general penalty.

Officials may need to clarify ball location and/or scores with a spectator.

13. Advice in Team Competitions (Rule 24.4)

Each team may name one advice giver whom players in the team may ask for advice and receive advice from during the round. The team must identify each advice giver to the Committee before any player on the team begins their round. Only amateur golfers are permitted to be advice givers. Advice givers (including Captains) are not permitted on the putting green.

Penalty for breach of Rule – Player General Penalty (2 shots) and/or Expulsion of Advice Giver.

14. Anti-Doping

Players are required to comply with the Anti-Doping Policy that is established by the International Golf Federation.

15. Returning of Scorecard

All Player's in a flight must promptly report to the Scoring Desk/Station **together** with their checked and signed Scorecard **as soon as they** leave the course. There is a 15 minute time limit. Players starting from hole 10 will be advised of their extra time – the hole location at each host course will determine this.

A player's scorecard is officially returned to the Committee when the player has left the Scoring area with both feet.

16. Deciding Ties

The method of deciding ties is stated in the Conditions of Entry for each competition.

17. Results of Match or Tournament – Competition Closed

- a.** Match Play - The result of a match is officially announced when it has been recorded with the Tournament Office.
- b.** Stroke Play - When the trophy is presented to the winner, the results of the competition are officially announced, and the competition is closed. See c. below.
- c.** However – Where an official error has been made the Committee is authorised to rectify the mistake and award the trophy/prize to the correct competitor according to the revised Official Classification. That decision is final.

STANDARD LOCAL RULES

1. OUT OF BOUNDS (Rule 18.2) – Please shout “Fore” for any wayward ball

- a. Beyond the outside edge of white lines or dots defining boundaries of the course, public roads/footpaths. White stakes are indicative only where they are used in conjunction with white painted dots/lines.
- b. Beyond the course-side edge of white stakes.
- c. Beyond any boundary fence/hedge/wall.
- d. Where white stakes are immediately adjacent to a cart path or wall, the boundary is defined by the outside edge (including kerbs), stakes are indicative only.
- e. A ball that is played from one side of a road which is defined as Out of Bounds and comes to rest on the other side of that road is Out of Bounds. This is true even if the ball comes to rest on another part of the course that is in bounds for other holes.
- f. All Clubhouse and surrounding areas [including practice facilities; range and putting greens etc].

2. PENALTY AREAS (Rule 17)

- a. Penalty areas are defined by red or yellow stakes and/or red or yellow lines. In all cases where both stakes and lines are present, lines take precedence.
- b. When a penalty area adjoins a boundary, the penalty area edge extends to and coincides with the boundary.
- c. Dropping Zones may have been provided, these will be noted on the Additional Local Rules available at the event (including whether optional or mandatory).
- d. The Model Local Rule B-3 permitting playing of a Provisional Ball under 18.3a (Ball in a Penalty Area) is in force at some locations. Check the Additional Local Rules at the event.

3. ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITIONS (Rule 16.1)

Ground Under Repair (GUR) – RELIEF MUST BE TAKEN 3a-3c

- a. Any area bounded by white painted lines and/or blue stakes and/or signs.
- b. Any specially marked decorative plant area (which may also be part of a No Go / No Play Zone). These areas and everything growing in them that are surrounded by an Immovable Obstruction are treated as a single Abnormal Course Condition.
- c. Staked trees.
- d. Any area of damaged ground caused by machinery, e.g. deep tractor ruts (not normal maintenance works). Including machine access areas to bunkers [however, removing sand prohibited].
- e. French drains (stone-filled drainage ditches).
- f. Any area where a tree stump has been removed and the soil is exposed.
- g. Erosional damage in bunkers caused by excess running water (wash-outs).
- h. Ball lying in or on a cut turf seam, or a seam interferes with intended swing (but not for stance).
- i. Painted coloured dots/distance markers.

Immovable Obstructions

- k. All concrete/artificial surfaced paths and their edges.
- l. Walls adjacent to paths/ditches/Penalty Areas/Teeing Areas.
- m. All irrigation items, including sprinkler heads, control boxes and satellite stations.
- n. Rest stations; Half-way Houses and other permanent buildings within the boundaries of the course.
- o. Course furniture, e.g. Tee information displays, signage posts, protective fencing, bins, ball-washers etc.
- p. Obstructions and GUR that are on a player’s line of play, that are within 2 club-lengths of a putting green, and also within 2 club-lengths of the ball.

Rule 16 - Exception: No Relief When Clearly Unreasonable to Play Ball (Unreasonable stance; club; direction of play etc.

4. INTEGRAL PARTS OF THE COURSE (Rule 8.1)

- a. All naturally surfaced access roads and paths (gravel; stone; hard-core etc.).

5. CADDIES (Rule 10.2) On the golf course, following registration:-

- a. Caddies must comply with the permitted duties as listed in the Rules of Golf.
- b. Caddies must not interfere with the play/rights of another competitor (but may assist in the search for a ball).
- c. Players are responsible for the actions (including penalties) of their caddy.

6. TROLLEY PUSHERS / BAG CARRIERS:-

- a. Permitted for the transportation of the player's clubs, bag and other equipment.
- b. These helpers must not go onto the Putting Green.
- c. They may not give their player any advice.
- d. They are allowed to pass equipment they carry to their player when the player requests it.

7. TEMPORARY IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS [TIO] (F-23)

- a. Event specific TIOs, (e.g. Tents; R&A; Sponsor banners etc.) - if difficult to move, free relief is available for physical interference, line of sight interference or both types of interference.
- b. Relief is not available if no interference from TIO, or distance exceeds expected type of stroke.
- c. A ball may be dropped within one club-length at the Nearest Point of Complete Relief.

8. BEHAVIOUR/CONDUCT (Rule 1)

- a. Specific details of expected behaviour and conduct required are as per the Rules of Golf 1.2a.
- b. Players are expected to care for the course by shouting fore for a wayward ball strike; replacing divots; repairing pitch-marks; and raking bunkers.

**CGF Competitions Committee
January 2026**