



2023 LOCAL RULES & TERMS OF THE COMPETITION

(Approved April 2023)

Play is governed by the 2023 Golf Canada Rules of Golf, and, where applicable, by the following Local Rules and Terms of the Competition, subject to changes, additions or deletions for particular competitions. The player's attention is drawn to Terms of the Competition accompanying entry applications.

Complete text of Local Rules may be found in the 2023 Golf Canada Official Guide to the Rules of Golf (available using the R&A or USGA Rules of Golf App).

Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule is the General Penalty:

Match play - Loss of hole; Stroke play – Two strokes

LOCAL RULES

1. **Out of Bounds (Rule 18.2)** - Defined by the line between the course-side points at ground level of white lines, dots or stakes and fence posts 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.

2. **Penalty Areas (Rule 17)** - When a red penalty area is defined on only one side, it extends to infinity. When a red penalty area adjoins a boundary, the penalty area edge extends to and coincides with the boundary.

3. **Dropping Zones** – Where a dropping zone is marked it is an additional option for relief. The dropping zone is a relief area and the ball must be dropped in and come to rest in the relief area.

4. **Abnormal Course Conditions (Including Immovable Obstructions) (Rule 16) -**

Ground under Repair - Rule 16.1 includes:

- a. Areas defined by white lines;
- b. French drains filled with stones;
- c. Seams of Cut Turf – Model Local Rule F-7 is in effect. Interference exists 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. However, 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. White-Lined Areas Tied Into Obstructions - White-lined areas of ground under repair and the artificially surfaced road or path or other identified obstruction they tie into are treated as a single abnormal course condition when taking relief under Rule 16.1.
- e. No Play Zones – Areas that are ornamental garden beds, turf nurseries or flowerbeds are no play zones that are to be treated as abnormal course conditions. Free relief **must** be taken from interference by the no play zone under Rule 16.1f.

5. **Wood Chips and Mulch (Rule 15.1)** - Wood chips and mulch are loose impediments.

6. **Integral Objects** – The following are integral objects from which free relief is not allowed:

- a. The portion of cables, wires, wrappings and other similar objects closely attached to trees;
- b. Artificial walls and 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.

7. Temporary Immovable Obstructions – Model Local Rule F-23 is in effect. Temporary Immovable Obstructions include, but are not limited to, starting tents, scoring tents and pace of play stations.

8. Clubs and Balls – (Rules 4.1a & 4.2a)

- 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 the Local Rule: **Disqualification**.
- b. List of Conforming Golf Balls: Model Local Rule G-3 is in effect. Penalty for breach of the Local Rule: **Disqualification**.
- c. 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 www.golfcanada.ca/rules.

9. Pace of Play (Rule 5.6) - The player **must** play without delay in accordance with the current Golf Ontario Pace of Play Policy which will be communicated prior to the start of the competition. The full policies are available at gao.ca and in the Golf Ontario Tournament Office. **Note:** Different Pace of Play Policies are in effect for different forms of competition.

Note: Rule 5.6a (Unreasonable Delay of Play) is still applicable.

10. Stopping and Resuming Play (Rule 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

11. Practice (Rules 5.2 and 5.5)

- a. **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 (except on or near the first teeing area or any practice area) 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.

- 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.

12. Transportation – Model Local Rule G-6 is in effect and is modified as follows: Players or caddies must not ride on any form of transportation, unless authorized or later approved by the Tournament Rules Committee, during the following Golf Ontario events: Men and Women's Amateur championship and practice rounds, all Junior championships, including practice rounds and qualifiers. See the Golf Ontario Motorized Transportation Policy for medical exemptions. A player who will play, or has played, under penalty of stroke and distance is always authorised to ride on motorized transportation for that purpose.

The player gets the **General Penalty** for each hole during which there is a breach of this Local Rule. If the breach occurs between the play of two holes, it applies to the next hole.

13. 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 a round.

The player gets the **General Penalty** for each hole during which there is a breach of this Local Rule. If the

breach occurs between the play of two holes, it applies to the next hole

- 14. Prohibiting or Restricting Use of Audio and Video Devices** - Model Local Rule G-8 is in effect and is modified as follows: Rule 4.3a(4) is modified in this way: During a round, a player must not listen to or watch content of any nature on a personal audio or video device.

Penalty for Breach of Local Rule - see Rule 4.3.

TERMS OF THE COMPETITION

15. Scorecard Responsibilities

- a. **Scorecard Returned** – A player's scorecard 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 their intention to leave the scoring area and receives the Committee's permission to do so.
- b. **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.

- 16. How to Decide Ties** - The Golf Ontario Tie Breaking Policy – Stroke Play is in effect for all Qualifying Rounds. Copies of the policy are posted on www.gao.ca and available at all qualifying sites.

- 17. Meaning of Round (For Qualifying Rounds and Single-Day Championships/Tournaments that start on the same hole)** - Qualifying rounds and single-day championships/tournaments will be comprised of two consecutive 9-hole rounds when all play starts on the same hole. In the event that every player is unable to complete 18 holes but has completed the first 9-hole round and the second round is subsequently cancelled, the score for the first 9-hole round will count and results for qualifying or the single-day championship/tournament will be based on this score. Nine holes **must** be completed by every player for the round to count.

18. Finalizing Results –

- a. **Qualifying Rounds:** The competition is deemed to be closed when the results have been transmitted and approved by Golf Ontario tournament staff.
- b. **Stroke Play Championships:** The competition is deemed to be closed when the trophy has been presented to the winner.
- c. **Match Play Championships:** The result of a match is considered to have been "officially announced" when Golf Ontario tournament staff have posted the results on the Golf Ontario website.

- 19. Anti-Doping** – Players are required to comply with and be bound by the Golf Ontario Anti-Doping Policy as detailed on the entry form, webpage on gao.ca, any prior notice to the competition or at the golf course.

- 20. Code of Conduct – (Rule 1.2b)** Golf Ontario has adopted a Local Rule under Rule 1.2b setting standards of player conduct on the golf course during play at all competitions. The full policy is available at gao.ca and in the Golf Ontario Tournament Office. The Golf Ontario Tournament Rules Committee may assess any or all of the following penalties outlined below, based on the severity and frequency of the violation:

- **Warning**
- **One-stroke penalty**
- **General penalty**
- **Disqualification**

PACE OF PLAY POLICIES

The Rules of Golf require that a player must play without unreasonable delay (Rule 5.6a). Rule 5.6b(3) states in part: "To encourage and enforce prompt play, the Committee should adopt a Local Rule setting Pace of Play Policy. This Policy may set a minimum time to complete a round, a hole or a series of holes and a stroke, and it



may set penalties for not following this Policy". In accordance with Rule 5.6b(3), Golf Ontario has adopted the following Pace of Play Policy.

STROKE PLAY CHAMPIONSHIPS & QUALIFYING ROUNDS (GROUP PACE OF PLAY)

Allotted Time

Each group is allotted a specific amount of time to complete a group of holes and the round at a pace in accordance with the applicable course's Pace of Play Time Chart. A Pace of Play Time Chart will be established at each course. When a group falls out of position, regardless of the reason, it must regain its position. Time for ball searches, rulings, and walking time between holes is also included in the allotted time.

Checkpoints: Four (championships) or Two (qualifying rounds) checkpoints will be designated throughout the course.

Normally completion of holes # 4, # 9, #13 and # 18 will be the designated checkpoints for championships. Completion of holes # 9 and # 18 will be the designated checkpoints for qualifying rounds.

Play of a checkpoint is deemed completed when all players in the group have completed play of the hole and the last player's ball is holed.

Note: If a group or player incurs a penalty, the penalty will be applied to the checkpoint hole where the breach occurred.

Definition of "Out of Position"

First Group: The first group (off the 1st and 10th holes, both morning and afternoon) to start will be considered **out of position** if, at any time during the round, they exceed the time allotted to complete a checkpoint, as detailed on the applicable course's Pace of Play Time Chart. This also includes a first group after a Starter's Time.

Note: In the event of a split-tee draw (starting on both holes #1 and #10), the first group to start off each tee (#1 and #10) becomes a "following group" when they are delayed by the last group to start from the opposite tee.

Following Groups: A following group is out of position if it:

- A. takes more than the **time expected** to complete a checkpoint **AND**
- B. completes play of a checkpoint more than 14 minutes (14:59) after the preceding group completed play of that hole.

Time charts outlining the time per hole, including the finish times for the checkpoint holes, are given on the hole location sheets and scorecards.

Penalties

When a group is out of position at any checkpoint, all the players in the group are liable to the following schedule of penalties, pending final determination of whether a breach or breaches of these guidelines have occurred:

- 1st missed checkpoint – warning (qualifying rounds and championships)
- 2nd missed checkpoint – liable to a 1 stroke penalty (qualifying rounds and championships)
- 3rd missed checkpoint – liable to an additional 2 stroke penalty (championships only)
- 4th missed checkpoint – liable to disqualification (championships only)

Note: If a group has not received a warning at a previous checkpoint hole, but is out of position at the final checkpoint, each player in the group is liable to a penalty of one stroke if no effort was made by the players to complete their round within the time expected for the final checkpoint.

Note: In circumstances where the Committee deems fit, the penalties under Rule 5.6a may still apply.



MATCH PLAY CHAMPIONSHIPS (INDIVIDUAL PACE OF PLAY)

Allotted Time

Please refer to the Golf Ontario Pace of Play Time Chart, which is available for all players at each event.

Definition of “Out of Position”

The first match to start will be considered out of position if, at any time during the round it exceeds the time allotted to play (Time Par), as detailed on the applicable course’s Pace of Play Time Chart. Subsequent matches will be considered out of position if, at any time during the round, they (a) exceed the allotted time to play and (b) arrive at the teeing area of a hole that is open and free of play.

Monitoring of Matches

A match that is out of position will be so informed by the Committee. However, the Committee reserves the right to time any match that the Committee deems is out of position, whether or not the match has been informed.

Timing

The timing of a player’s stroke will begin when it is the player’s turn to play without interference or distraction. Any time spent determining yardages will count as time taken for the next stroke. On the putting green, timing will begin after a player has been allowed a reasonable amount of time to mark, lift, clean and replace his/her ball, repair damage and remove loose impediments on the line of play. Any player in a match which is out of position shall be penalized for unreasonable delay of play if, during the round, they take 40 seconds or more on two occasions to play a stroke.

An extra 10 seconds (for a total of 50 seconds) will be allowed for:

1. the first player to make a stroke from the teeing area;
2. the first player to make a second stroke on a par-4 or par-5 hole (when attempting to reach the putting green);
3. the first player to make a third stroke on a par-5 hole; or
4. the first player to make a stroke on the putting green

If a match, which is out of position, regains its position, timing of players will cease. Timing may recommence if the match subsequently falls out of position, in which case any recorded timing exceeding 40 seconds anytime during the round will be carried over throughout the round. Such matches out of position will not be notified of monitoring and timing unless asked by the player(s).

Unreasonable delay of play can also occur between strokes (such as by walking too slowly) and between the play of two holes.

Penalties

Any player in a match out of position who exceeds 40 seconds to play a stroke on two occasions will be informed as soon as practicable that the player has lost the hole at which the second excess time was recorded. If the player in question exceeds 40 seconds to play a stroke on two more occasions while the match remains or has again become out of position (a total of four), the player will be informed as soon as practicable that he or she has been disqualified.

SHOTGUN STARTS (INDIVIDUAL PACE OF PLAY)

Allotted Time

Please refer to the Golf Ontario Pace of Play Time Chart, which is available for all players at each event.

Definition of “Out of Position”

Any group will be considered out of position if it (a) is taking more than the allotted time to play and (b) reaches the teeing area of a par-3 hole and the preceding group has cleared the next tee; reaches the teeing area of a par-4 hole and the putting green is clear or reaches the teeing area of a par-5 hole when the preceding group is on the putting green. Both (a) and (b) must apply for a group to be out of position.

Monitoring of Groups

A group that is out of position will be so informed by the Committee. However, the Committee reserves the right to time any group that the Committee deems is out of position, whether or not the group has been informed.

Timing

If a group is out of position, it may be monitored or timed for failing to comply with the Pace of Play guideline. When a group is out of position each player in the group is expected to make any stroke within 40 seconds after timing of the player's stroke begins.

Other than on the putting green, the timing of a player's stroke will begin when he or she has had reasonable opportunity to reach his/her ball, it is his/her turn to play and can play without interference or distraction. Time spent determining yardage will count as time taken for the next stroke.

On the putting green, timing will begin after a player has been allowed a reasonable amount of time to mark, lift, clean and replace his/her ball and repair damage and remove loose impediments on the line of play. Time spent looking at the line of play from beyond the hole and/or behind the ball will count as part of the time taken for the next stroke.

NOTE: A player is permitted 40 seconds to make a stroke. An extra 10 seconds (for a total of 50 seconds) will be allowed for:

1. the first player to make a stroke from the teeing area;
2. the first player to make a second stroke on a par-4 or par-5 hole (when attempting to reach the putting green);
3. the first player to make a third stroke on a par-5 hole; or
4. the first player to make a stroke on the putting green

NOTE: The Committee reserves the right, at any time, to time a group when the Committee deems it necessary. Players should also be aware that the Committee may assess a "bad time" to a player in a group which is out of position if the player makes no effort to help his group get back in position. An example of this would be a player who unreasonably delays play between strokes.

Penalties

The following are the penalties, in sequence, for any player in a group being timed who takes more than the allotted time to play a stroke after timing of the player's stroke begins:

- One bad timing exceeding the allotted time — warning
- A second bad timing — 1 stroke penalty,
- A third bad timing — Additional 2 stroke penalty
- A fourth bad timing — Disqualification

NOTE: If the group in question regains its proper position, any previous timings of more than the allotted time will be carried over for the remainder of that round in the event that group requires additional monitoring. Any group with a player(s) who has a bad time will be notified if the group requires additional monitoring and time during the round

APPEALS FOR ALL FORMS OF PLAY



Slow play penalties may be appealed to the Tournament Appeals Committee. The appeal must be **in writing** and must be based on facts relevant to the reason Pace of Play was not maintained. The decision of the Tournament Appeals Committee will be final. If a player in question does not appeal immediately upon conclusion of his or her round, any penalties shall stand.

For qualifying rounds, all appeals must be made **in writing** and returned to a Referee before leaving the course.



TIE BREAKING POLICY

Golf Ontario has determined that, for the purposes of breaking ties at any time when referred to this policy, the following Matching Scorecards method of tie-breaking will be used regardless of starting format:

For an 18-hole competition, use the best back 9 (holes 10th – 18th), thence to the best score on the last 6 holes (13th – 18th), thence to the best score on the last 3 holes (16th – 18th), and thence to the best score on the last (18th) hole.

If this fails to break the tie then go to the best score on the second last hole (17th hole), then to the best score on the third last hole (16th hole), then to the best score on the fourth last hole (15th hole), and continue through holes one by one to the best score on the first hole.

If the players are still tied after this, the Committee shall flip a coin.

Note: In the event that a qualifying round is shortened to nine holes, the method of breaking ties used will be the best score on the last 6 holes, thence to the best score on the last 3 holes, and thence to the best score on the last (9th) hole.

If this fails to break the tie then go to the best score on the second last hole (8th hole), then to the best score on the third last hole (7th hole), then to the best score on the fourth last hole (6th hole), and continue through holes one by one to the best score on the first hole.

If the players are still tied after this, the Committee shall flip a coin.

CADDIE & FOOTWEAR POLICY

Caddies

A player may provide his or her own caddie. A player is not required to employ a caddie for any phase of a Championship or a Qualifying Round. Caddies must adhere to the Footwear Policy.

A player must not have another player in the competition, who has played or will play in the same round, as his or her caddie during a round.

When carts are permitted for a Championship or Qualifying Round, a caddie driving a player's cart must also perform expected duties of a caddie throughout the round.

Footwear

This policy applies to players and their caddies.

It is a term of the competition that during a round, including at all qualifying rounds, practice rounds and championships, a player must not wear shoes with traditional spikes – that is, spikes having single or multiple points designed to penetrate deeply into the surface of the ground (regardless of whether made of metal, ceramic, plastic or other materials); or spikes of any design that are entirely or partially made of metal, if such metal may come in contact with the course.

Soft-spikes or flat soled shoes are permitted. Bare feet are prohibited.

Penalty for breach of this policy - see Rule 4.3



MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION POLICY

Players and caddies must not ride on any form of transportation unless authorized or later approved by the Tournament Appeals Committee for the following events:

- Men and Women's Amateur championships and practice rounds
- All Junior championships including practice rounds and qualifiers

Penalty for Breach of this policy: The player gets the **general penalty** for each hole during which there is a breach of this Local Rule. If the breach occurs between the play of two holes, it applies to the next hole.

Exceptions include:

- A player with a serious, permanent physical disability may request the use of motorized transportation at any Golf Ontario competition by submitting a Transportation Request Form. A player may also request the use of motorized transportation for a caddie with a permanent physical disability by submitting a Transportation Request Form. If motorized transportation is approved for a player and/or caddie at a competition that would otherwise prohibit the use of motorized transportation, the conditions described in Part A below must be in place. Temporary disabilities or injuries do not qualify for this policy. The Transportation Request Form must be submitted to Golf Ontario by the player or caddie, no later than registration deadline for the Championship. All information submitted will be treated on a strictly confidential basis. Such information should be submitted by email to Golf Ontario to the attention of the Tournament Department.
- In all other competitions, players will be permitted to use motorized transportation. The conditions described in Part B below are in effect.
- A player who will play, or has played, under penalty of stroke and distance is always authorized to ride on motorized transportation for that purpose.

Part A: Use of Motorized Transportation by a Person with a Serious, Permanent Disability:

When using motorized transportation, the player must not:

- Permit anyone else to drive the cart unless authorized by the Committee (other than moving it a very short distance to facilitate play);
- Permit anyone else to ride in the cart;
- When practical, drive past any player's ball to gauge distance or gather any other information about the hole.

Part B: Use of Motorized Transportation

- There is a maximum of two golf carts per group. Caddies are not guaranteed a ride.
- Players must share a cart if only two players in a group are riding.
- When using motorized transportation, the player must not:
 - Permit anyone other than a player or caddie to drive the cart (other than moving it a very short distance to facilitate play);
 - Permit anyone other than a player or caddie to ride in the cart;
 - When practical, drive past any player's ball to gauge distance or gather any other information about the hole.
 - Permit more than two people to ride in a cart at any one time.

A breach of Part A or B is considered a breach of the Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy and penalties are as prescribed in the 2023 Local Rules and Terms of the Competition.

SPECTATORS: The use of golf carts by spectators is not permitted during Golf Ontario Qualifiers and Championships.

CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICS POLICY



TOURNAMENT / EVENT POLICY

Golf Ontario's (GO) goal is to have all of its tournaments recognized as the best Amateur Golf Tournaments in Ontario. In order to continue to make GO Tournaments an enjoyable experience for everyone, GO requires that all of the participants in its events adhere to certain standards set out in this Guideline.

Definitions

1. The following terms have these meanings in this Guideline:
 - a. "Amateur Player" means any Player who is not a professional golfer at the commencement of the relevant competition.
 - b. "GO Tournament or Event" means any golf tournament or other event that is sponsored by, organized by, or held under the authority of, GO.
 - c. "Golf Course" means the golf course at which a GO tournament or event is to be played, and includes any related practice or locker room areas.
 - d. "Golf Facility" means a facility at which a GO Tournament or Event is being held, and includes any related Golf Course, food service facility or other amenity associated with such a facility.
 - e. "Junior Player" means any Player who is under the age of 19 at the commencement of the relevant competition.
 - f. "Tournament Official" means any Volunteer, Individual or Staff participating in any way in the staging of a GO Tournament or Event.

Scope and Application

2. These Guidelines apply to all Players including Junior Players and Amateur Players and Tournament Officials and sets out the behavior they are expected to abide by while participating in GO Tournaments and Events (including practice rounds).

On the Course

3. While on the Golf Course during a GO Tournament or Event, all Players:
 - a. Will strictly adhere to the Rules of Golf;
 - b. Will refrain from using abusive or profane language;
 - c. Will refrain from displays of temper (such as throwing clubs);
 - d. Will complete all competitive rounds of golf, unless otherwise approved by the GO Tournament Committee;
 - e. Will adhere to the Dress Code during practice and competitive rounds;
 - f. Will demonstrate respect for Volunteers, spectators, Tournament Officials, the staff and members of the Golf Facility at which a GO Tournament or Event is being held, as well as their fellow Players;
 - g. Will not demonstrate any conduct not becoming of a GO Member, as outlined in the Code of Conduct.
4. Tournament Officials (Referee, Starter, Scorer or Timing Official) are expected to:
 - a. Present a clean, well-groomed appearance;
 - b. Avoid all physical contact with Players, including hugging Players, unless initiated by the Player
 - c. Avoid any situation that might be construed as a conflict of interest, i.e. a close relationship/friendship with specific Players;
 - d. Deal with Players, Coaches and spectators (including parents or caregivers of Players) by showing respect, even in cases where this is not reciprocated. Heated exchanges, whatever the cause and under any amount of provocation are to be avoided at all costs. If disputes which



seem likely to result in such exchanges cannot be avoided, every effort must be made to conduct such dialogue in private and the Tournament Director must be informed;

- e. Avoid public criticism of fellow Tournament Officials, Players, organizers, sponsors, or the host Golf Facility that may bring the game into disrepute.
- f. Be discreet. Comments relating to the competence, performance or behavior of fellow Tournament Officials should only be made to the Tournament Director, in private;
- g. Work in a spirit of cooperation with other Tournament Officials and not interfere in any way with their duties or responsibilities.

Off the Course

5. While **off** the Golf Course, **Players**:

- a. Will not be associated with vandalism;
- b. Will not demonstrate abusive behavior to any fellow Players, Tournament Officials, or members or staff of the Golf Course;
- c. Will avoid any other conduct not becoming of a GO Member, as outlined in the Code of Conduct.

6. While **off** the Golf Course, all Tournament Officials:

- a. Are expected to attend appropriate training sessions and clinics provided by GO.

Use of Tobacco, Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems, Alcohol, Marijuana and Illicit Drugs

7. In order to ensure a safe and enjoyable environment at GO Tournaments/Events:

- a. **Junior Players** will NOT use illicit drugs, tobacco, electronic nicotine delivery systems, marijuana or alcohol at a Golf Facility, whether on or off the Golf Course;
- b. Players Other Than Junior Players:
 - i. Will NOT use illicit drugs, marijuana or alcohol on the Golf Course; and
 - ii. Will NOT use illicit drugs, marijuana or alcohol at a Golf Facility during times when play is suspended but anticipated to resume before nightfall.
 - iii. Will refrain from using tobacco, electronic nicotine delivery systems or marijuana products at a Golf Facility except in designated areas and subject to Golf Facility policy.
- c. Tournament Officials:
 - i. Will NOT use illicit drugs, marijuana or alcohol at Junior competitions;
 - ii. Will refrain from using tobacco products or electronic nicotine delivery systems on the Golf Course except in designated areas.
 - iii. Will refrain from entering a Golf Facility under the influence of alcohol, marijuana or illicit drugs.

Dress Code

8. GO requires that proper attire be worn at all times while attending a Golf Facility for a GO tournament or event:

- a. **Junior/Amateur Players** and **Tournament Officials** are required to abide by the dress code policy of the host Golf Facility, if any;
- b. **Tournament Officials** are required to wear the uniform specified by GO while officiating;
- c. Attire Not Permitted:
 - i. Denim or jeans of any kind or colour, cut-offs, short shorts, tennis shorts, rugger/cargo pants or shorts (outside external pocket), tank tops, halter tops, mesh shirts, workout attire, spandex or fleece fabrics or graphic t-shirts.
 - ii. Any other inappropriate attire determined by the Tournament Committee.

Policy Violations



9. In addition to penalties that may be imposed under the Rules of Golf, GO may impose one or more of the following Tournament/Event disciplinary actions based on the severity of the violation:
 - a. Letter of warning to any Tournament Official or Player and/or the parents of a Junior Player;
 - b. Disqualification from the Tournament/Event at which the violation occurred;
 - c. Disqualification from future GO tournaments/events for which a Player is otherwise eligible;
 - d. Rejection of a Player's selection for GO teams;
 - e. Suspension of GO membership, either for a specific period of time or indefinitely. Any Player whose membership is under suspension will not be considered for post-season rankings, exemptions for future events, or selection for teams representing GO.

Right of Appeal

10. All Tournament/Event disciplinary actions except the issuance of a letter of warning are subject to appeal in accordance with GO's Dispute Resolution and Appeal Policy.

PARENT AND SPECTATOR POLICY

Spectators, including parents and coaches, are an integral part of Golf Ontario tournaments. Our Golf Ontario tournament staff and volunteers work very diligently to ensure the best possible experience for both players and spectators at our Golf Ontario Tournaments. While our goal is to maximize the spectator experience, we must also ensure that the integrity of the competition is preserved at all times. The following parent and spectator guidelines have been developed to ensure everyone's safety and to preserve the authenticity and



integrity of our championships. In any case, spectators should not take any action deemed detrimental to the athlete environment and/or experience.

The Parent and Spectator Policy must be followed throughout qualifying rounds, and championships including practice rounds. A breach of this policy may be subject to the sanctions outlined below.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM GOLF ONTARIO

- Professionally-run tournaments
- Friendly, courteous staff and volunteers
- Certified Referees at all Qualifying Rounds and Championships
- Strict enforcement of Group Pace of Play & Code of Conduct and Ethics Policies
- Positive competitive experience

MINIMUM DISTANCES AND PROHIBITED AREAS: A minimum distance of 30 yards must be maintained between the player and spectators in ALL circumstances with the following exceptions:

- Once all players have reached the putting green, spectators must remain 10 yards from the putting green.
- Once all players are on the teeing area, spectators must remain 10 yards from the teeing area and on the cart path (if one is present).

When cart paths are provided, spectators **MUST** remain on those paths. When no cart paths are available, spectators must stay in the rough on the side of the hole/course. Spectators are prohibited from the following areas:

- Teeing Areas, Fairways, Putting Greens;
- Scoring and Starting areas; and,
- Rules Situations – Areas where Rulings are being provided

ADVICE & COMMUNICATION: No advice is to be given to any player during a round. Advice is defined as any verbal comment or action that is intended to influence a player in choosing a club, making a stroke, or deciding how to play a hole during a round. Avoid all communication, verbal and non-verbal, which may be construed by others (players, parents and Referees) as advice.

Exceptions:

- Asking or giving the player food, drink, umbrella or the like;
- Needing to deal with a medical situation

LOST GOLF BALLS: Spectators can help pace of play by observing when and where golf balls stray. Searching for stray balls should only start when the player reaches the area of the stray ball and indicates help is required. It should be noted that players may not want to find their original ball in all circumstances.

DRESS CODE: Each host course has its own particular dress-code policy. Spectators who do not meet the standard established by the host club and/or Golf Ontario will be refused admittance to both the golf course and/or clubhouse.

CELL PHONES/SMARTPHONES/CAMERAS: All mobile devices must be set to the “vibrate” only or “silent” mode or turned off. Many golf clubs have policies that prohibit the use of mobile phones on the golf course and/or in the clubhouse. It is the responsibility of the spectator to follow the policy of the host facility. Pictures and videos should be taken before or after each round, not during play.

GOLF CARTS: The use of golf carts by spectators is not permitted during Golf Ontario Qualifying Rounds and Championships (including practice rounds).

SANCTIONS: Possible violations of the Golf Ontario Parent & Spectator Policy should be reported to a Golf Ontario Referee, who will inform the Golf Ontario Tournament Director. The Tournament Director will



investigate the details of the incident. Any spectator whose conduct is deemed to be disruptive or not conducive to the well-being of the game may be banned from the course, host facility or future Golf Ontario competitions. The Tournament Committee is the sole judge in determining unbecoming conduct and will handle all situations on a case by case basis depending on the severity and frequency of the violation(s). All instances of abuse, bullying, harassment or discrimination require an incident report to be compiled by the Tournament Director and submitted to the GO Discipline and Complaints Committee.

An individual who violates this Policy may be subject to sanctions pursuant to Golf Ontario's Discipline and Complaints Policy and may be subject to any or all of the following sanctions as determined by the Tournament Director in consultation with the Tournament Rules Chair and or Referees:

- Verbal warning to the spectator.
- Spectator banned from the golf course and or property for the round or tournament.
- Spectator banned from future Golf Ontario events.

RIGHT TO APPEAL: Any Golf Ontario disciplinary decision imposed as a result of a breach of this Policy may be appealed in accordance with Golf Ontario's Dispute Resolution and Appeal Policy.

AFTER THE COMPETITION: Parents & Coaches should encourage players to send thank-you messages to those who contributed to the success of the tournament. We welcome any and all letters of suggestion to Golf Ontario that will help us make our Championships even more special for all involved.