

Local Rules

Local Rules are intended to cater for conditions that are not covered by the Rules of Golf themselves. Some Local Rules may only be of a short-term nature (e.g. course closure). In such cases, this information will be prominently displayed on the Check Inn notice board. It is the responsibility of each player to read such notices and to comply with the instructions contained in them.

1. Bounds and Margins

1-1 The left hand side of the 1st fairway from the bottom edge of the bushes, the entire length of the ditch running parallel and left of the 3rd fairway (including the ditch itself), the internal road parallel to the 4th fairway and the ESTEC perimeter fence on holes 5, 6 and 7 are Out of Bounds and are course boundaries.

1-2 When the tee markers are placed by the mats the definition of teeing ground is reduced to the area of the mats

2. Obstructions

2-1 All paths are an integral part of the course, i.e. no relief may be taken.

2-2 Staked trees (including stakes) are an integral part of the course, i.e. no relief. See explanatory note on local rule 2-2.

2-3 If a ball is in ground under repair (GUR), a ball must be dropped outside the GUR, in accordance with Rule 25.1.b

2-4 Relief may be taken from fixed sprinkler heads in accordance with the ruling in Appendix 1, Part B, point 6

3. Water Hazards

3-1 To prevent delays in play, at Holes 3 & 6, if a ball is in or there is reasonable evidence that the ball is lost in the water hazard, a provisional ball may be played prior to searching for the ball. The ruling is detailed in Appendix 1, Part A, point 2b.

3-2 When playing hole 2, for balls hit into the water hazard behind the 2nd green relief may be taken in the drop zone (with a penalty stroke) or players may proceed according to Rule 26-1a.

4. Special Hazards

4-1 The trees and bushes behind the green of hole 3 are marked as a hazard. A ball may be played from there, without penalty, or may be lifted and dropped in the designated Dropping Zone (DZ), one stroke penalty, or players may proceed according to Rule 26-1a.

4-2 The area behind the stream behind hole 4 is designated an environmental area and as such is marked as a hazard with yellow/green and red/green stakes. Balls entering that area are to be left (no searching / play from the marked area), and a new ball dropped in the designated Dropping Zone (DZ), one stroke penalty, or players may proceed according to Rule 26-1a.

5. Temporary Ground Under Repair (GUR)

5-1 In the springtime there are many spring flowers at various places on the course. At that time, those places shall be regarded as GUR, and the ball must be dropped outside the GUR in accordance with Rule 25.1.b, without penalty.

Explanatory Notes

The Local Rules are brief, as they need to be short enough to be on the scorecard. This additional information provides more detail about the Rules and their interpretation. The sections of the Rules of Golf which are applicable to the ESTEC Golf Course are included.

A rationale is also provided as to why we have some of the Rules and how they are to be implemented.

Local Rule 1-2: The tees are set by the mats so that minimum damage is caused to the course. Therefore, when the tees are on the mats, the ball should be teed-up on the mat and not behind the mat. The club has

spent a considerable amount of money to refurbish the tees, which need to be kept in good condition.

Local Rule 2-2: All staked trees (including stakes) are in play. The stakes have been left in position because although the trees are now mature, the roots are not strong enough to cope with some of the strong winds we can experience. This conforms to the definition of obstructions in the R & A Rules of Golf (2008-2011), exception c. The ball may be played as it lies or the player may proceed in accordance with rule 28 (unplayable ball).

Local Rule 2-4: Provides relief (without penalty) from interference by an immovable obstruction, but it provides that, except on the putting green, intervention on the line of play is not per se interference under this Rule.

Fixed sprinkler heads on the apron may interfere with the proper playing of the game.

All fixed sprinkler heads are immovable obstructions and relief from interference by them may be obtained under rule 24-2. In addition, if a ball lies off the putting green but not in a hazard, and such an obstruction lies within two club lengths of the putting green, and within two club lengths of the ball, and intervenes on the line of play between the ball and the hole, the player may take relief as follows:

The ball shall be lifted and dropped at the nearest point to where the ball lay which:

- a. Is not nearer the hole,
- b. Avoids such interference and
- c. Is not in a hazard or on a putting green.

The ball may be cleaned when so lifted.

Local Rule 3-1: The purpose of this ruling is to save time when you do not know whether your ball has cleared the water or not. You play a provisional ball from the available options and then proceed up the course to look for your ball. This saves the time in having to walk back to play a ball if the original ball has in fact been lost in the water hazard.

The ruling is as follows:

Permitting play of a provisional ball for a ball which may be in a water hazard of such character that if the original ball not found, there is reasonable evidence that it is lost in the water hazard and it would be impracticable to determine whether the ball is in the hazard or to do so would unduly delay play. The ball shall be played provisionally under any of the available options under Rule 26-1.

In such a case, if a provisional ball is played and the original ball is in a water hazard, the player may play the original ball as it lies or continue with the provisional ball in play, but he may not proceed under Rule 26-1 with regard to the original ball.

Note on Water Hazard Markers:

Water hazard markers are movable obstructions. Relief may be taken in accordance with Rule 24-1. Water hazard markers can be removed temporarily to play the next shot. It is very important that the water hazard marker be replaced in the same position after the shot. To do this the location of the water hazard marker should be marked. This is particularly important in order to ensure that the Water Hazard is the same for the next golfer as it was for you.

Rule 24-1: A player may obtain relief from a movable obstruction as follows:

If the ball does not lie in or on the obstruction, the obstruction may be removed. If the ball moves, it shall be replaced and there is no penalty, provided that the movement of the ball is directly attributable to the removal of the obstruction.

The ball may be cleaned when lifted under Rule 24-1.

Local Rule 3.2: A DZ will be established behind the 2nd green. When playing the 2nd hole, for all balls hit into the water hazard behind the 2nd green the drop zone may be used (with a penalty of one stroke), or the player can proceed as per Rule 26-1a, i.e. play a ball as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was last played (also with a penalty of one stroke). It is not allowed to drop behind the hazard (on the 4th hole). This is to ensure that play is not slowed up by walking around the hazard to drop a ball and then walk back around the hazard in order to play the hole out. This local rule only applies when playing the 2nd hole, not when playing other holes.

Local Rule 4.1 : This has been introduced in order to help speed up play and avoid futile searches for balls and the excessive penalty of having to drop behind the trees if the ball is found. If the player and marker have reason to believe the ball is in this hazard, **even though it is not found** , then a new ball shall be dropped in the designated DZ, with a one stroke penalty, rather than going back to the original position from which the ball was lost (stroke and distance).

Note that the drop zone is not in play if a ball enters the rough / bushes / trees to the left of the third green. If a ball is hit into that area then it has to be played as it lies or the player may proceed according to Rules 27 or 28.

Local Rule 4.2 : This has been introduced to avoid damage to the rare and attractive natural flora behind the hole. If a player and marker have reason to believe the ball has entered this area, a new ball shall be dropped in the designated DZ, with a one stroke penalty. It is not permitted to enter the marked hazard area to look for or strike a ball.