

2019 BERMUDA CHAMPIONSHIP LOCAL QUALIFIER

The Rules of Golf as approved by R&A Rules Limited and the USGA govern play.

GENERAL RULES

EMBEDDED BALL – A ball embedded in its own pitch-mark in the general area may be lifted, cleaned and dropped, without penalty. The reference point is the spot right behind where the ball is embedded (Rule 16.3). **Exception:** A player may not obtain relief under this rule if it is clearly unreasonable to play a stroke because of interference by anything other than the condition covered by this rule.

STONES IN BUNKERS – Stones in bunkers are now considered loose impediments and may be removed in a bunker without penalty (Rule 15.1 applies).

ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITIONS (Animal Holes, Ground Under Repair, Immovable Obstructions & Temporary Water)

If a player's ball lies in or on an abnormal condition, or such condition interferes with the player's intended stance or swing the player is permitted to lift the ball and drop it, without penalty, within a one club-length relief area, the reference point being the nearest point of complete relief not nearer the hole (Rule 16.1 applies).

OUT OF BOUNDS – Defined by white lines and/or the inside points at ground level of white stakes and the boundary of the course. A ball coming to rest on or over any public roadway within the course boundary is out of bounds, even if it comes to rest on another part of the course. (Rule 18.2 applies). Course boundaries by definition are out of bounds even if there are no out of bounds stakes or lines displayed.

POMPANO ROAD (between #2 green & #3 tee box) is out of bounds when playing holes #2, 3 and 5.

PENALTY AREAS – Penalty areas are defined by red or yellow stakes and/or lines (see Supplemental Notice to Players). If it is known or virtually certain that a ball that has not been found is in a penalty area, the player may play the ball as it lies without restriction, or under the penalty of one stroke:

- play a ball as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was last played under stroke & distance (19.2a);
- take back-on-the-line relief (19.2b); or
- Red Penalty Area only – take lateral relief within a two-club length relief area. There reference point being, where the ball is estimated to have last crossed the edge of the red penalty area (19.2c). A drop area is located on hole #3 and #16 (white teeing area).

DISTANCE MEASURING DEVICES – A player may obtain distance information by using a distance-measuring device. If a player uses a distance-measuring device to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect their play (e.g. elevation changes, wind speed, etc) the player is in breach of Rule 4.3a(1), for which the penalty is two strokes for the first offence and disqualification for any subsequent offences.

PACE OF PLAY – Players are expected to complete 9 holes in less than 2 hours 20 minutes for a total round under 4 hours 40 minutes. Pace of play will be monitored and where a group is considered to be playing at an excessively slow pace, the group will be warned and monitored. Penalties may subsequently be imposed under rule 5.6a where it is considered necessary.

DOUBT AS TO PROCEDURE – If a player is doubtful as to the correct procedure during the play of a hole, they may, without penalty, complete the hole with two balls. The player must announce which ball they intend to score with if the Rules permit. Additionally, the player must report the facts of the situation to the Committee before returning their score card. If they fail to do so, the player is disqualified (Rule 20.1c(3) applies).

DISCONTINUANCE OF PLAY – A suspension of play for a dangerous situation will be signaled by one prolonged air horn note. All competitors must stop play immediately. Any resumption of play will be signaled by two short air horn notes, repeated (Rule 5.7).

LOCAL RULES

Please disregard any Local Rules found on the Port Royal Golf Course scorecard or posted in the clubhouse.

CONFORMING DRIVER HEADS – Any driver the player uses to make a stroke must have a clubhead, identified by model and loft, which is on the current List of Conforming Driver Heads issued by the USGA (Local Rule G1) - available on usga.org.

GROOVE AND PUNCH MARK SPECIFICATIONS – In making a stroke, the player must use clubs that conform to the groove and punch mark specification in the Equipment Rules that took effect on 1 January 2010 (Local Rule G2).

LIST OF CONFORMING GOLF BALLS – Any ball used in making a stroke must be on the current List of Conforming Golf Balls issued by the USGA (Local Rule G3) - available on usga.org.

ONE BALL RULE – The One Ball Rule **IS** in effect for this event. During the entire round, each ball at which the player makes a stroke must be of the same brand and model as found in a single entry on the current list of conforming balls (Local Rule G-4) - available on usga.org.

PROHIBITION OF MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION – The use of motorized golf carts is **NOT** permitted in this event. During a round, a player or caddie must not ride on any form of motorized transportation except as authorized by the committee (Local Rule G-6). Pull carts and electric hand-held carts are permitted.

CADDIES – Personal caddies are permitted subject to the limitations contained in Rule 10.3.

TEMPORARY IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS (TIO) – All temporary grandstands, tents, scoreboards, TV towers and portable toilets are considered Temporary Immovable Obstructions and the player may take relief as an immovable obstruction (rule 16.1) or as a TIO in which he is also entitled to line of sight relief.

RELIEF FROM TEMPORARY IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTION IN THE GENERAL AREA (Local Rule F23) – If a player's ball is in the general area and there is interference by a TIO (including a TIO out of bounds), the player may take free relief by dropping the original ball or another ball, the reference point being the nearest point of complete relief where both the physical and line of sight interference no longer exist. The one-club relief area must be in the general area; must not be nearer the hole than the reference point and there must be complete relief from both physical and line of sight interference by the TIO.

INTEGRAL PART OF THE COURSE – The house and associated pathways and drives between #3 and #5 green are considered an integral part of the course and free relief is **NOT** available. Penalty relief may be obtained under the Unplayable Ball Rule (19);

- a) 19.2a - Stroke and distance by playing the ball from where it was previously played
- b) 19.2b - Back-on-the-line relief
- c) 19.2c – Lateral relief (two club-length relief area)

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE TO PLAYERS

Due to the limitations imposed on the committee of the Bermuda Championship Local Qualifier Committee by the PGA TOUR, it has not been possible to mark the course with lines as would normally be the case. In addition, limitations have been applied with regard to tee box usage. To ensure fairness to the competitors and to maintain the integrity of the event, the following provisions have been put in place:

PENALTY AREAS – some penalty areas, notably #1, #17 and #18 will **NOT** be marked with red lines. If a player's ball is known or virtually certain to have crossed the edge of the penalty area, the player is entitled to play the ball as it lies without restriction. i.e. may ground his club, move loose impediments and mark and lift the ball for identification. If the player wishes to take penalty relief under Penalty Area Rule 17, the reference point for back-on-the-line relief (17.1d(2)) or lateral two club-length relief (17.1d(3)) will be the edge of the penalty area at the point where the slope noticeably breaks down to form the depression in which the water is contained.

Hole #16 – the area around the green will be marked as a red penalty area with stakes only (any remnants of a red line should be ignored during this event), so a player will have options under rule 17 for a ball that clears, but then rolls into the penalty area.

Drop Area (Hole #16) – a drop area is located on the White Tee box as an additional option for a ball that does not clear, or enters the penalty area. The drop area is defined as the white teeing area (a two club-length rectangle with the white tee markers forming the forward point of the drop area).

OUT OF BOUNDS – out of bounds markings will be used sparingly on the course and will only be marked by white stakes (no white lines will be used). Out of bounds will only be used where, in the opinion of the committee, it is necessary for safety or clarity. Where out of bounds does exist, the usual rules will apply.

GROUND UNDER REPAIR – due to recent hurricane damage, there are areas of the course where damage has occurred to which the player would be entitled to relief for Ground Under Repair. However, for reasons previously stated, Ground Under Repair will **NOT** be marked during this event and a player is **NOT** permitted to make such a determination, this can only be done by an official committee member. Provisions have therefore been put in place to ensure that a committee member will be in close proximity to all groups and should a player need a Ground Under Repair ruling, they should summon a committee member.

HOLE #15 – markings on the left side of #15 fairway have been removed. This area is neither out of bounds nor a penalty area and a player may play the ball as it lies. However, players are discouraged from entering this area as it consists of a steep slope with loose rocks, sand and gravel. If a player finds and attempts to play his ball from the bank, he should be aware that, in the event he fails to extract the ball from its current position, the result may be an unplayable situation for which the options would now be extremely limited.

REQUEST FOR RULING – a player may request a ruling by calling tel: 234-0974 and stating on which hole they are located. A player may request a second opinion on two occasions.

GOLF ATTIRE – proper attire is required to be worn by players and caddies. Regular shorts may be worn, but cargo pants and those of a similar design are not permitted. Players are not permitted to wear metal spikes. Caddies are encouraged to wear sneakers or spikeless shoes with non-marking soles.

PRACTICE ROUNDS – players are welcome to play practice rounds on the course prior to the day of the event. However, in the interests of preserving the course for the main championship event, it would be appreciated if players would avoid playing multiple shots off the tee, particularly on the par 3's and minimize bunker play as far as possible.

COMMITTEE – The 2019 Bermuda Championship Local Qualifier Committee will comprise of the following persons: Gary Venning (Tournament Director & Head Rules Official); Eric Robinson (Rules Official); PH Horgan III and Craig Brown. Rulings from a rules official or a committee member are binding and a decision by the committee shall be final.