

Local Rules for the ESTEC Golf Club

Version dated February 2019

Introduction

Local Rules are intended to cater for conditions that are not covered by the Rules of Golf themselves. The purpose of this set of Local Rules is

- to minimize ambiguity in the playing of the EGC course
- to reduce the potential for slow play
- to improve safety and
- to protect the golf course and the environment.

In establishing these Local Rules the committee has as far as practical followed the recommendations of the R&A following the 2019 rules revision.

Some Local Rules may only be of a short-term nature (e.g. course closure), which cannot be addressed by this document. 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.

Regarding the protection of the tee boxes (local rule 6-1) the committee relies largely on the cooperation of the players on the course. The committee is fully aware of the difficulties and limitations in playing from the mats, in particular with respect to the placing of tees. However, the practice of teeing up next to or behind the mats not only constitutes a violation of the rules of competition, but also results in an accumulation of damage to the tees that requires considerable time and money to repair. Please help us protect YOUR golf course.

The local rules provide means to protect endangered plants, in particular orchids, from damage through the act of striking a golf ball. However, most damage to the orchids, which grow mainly in the margins of various ponds, are caused by the act of searching for golf balls. The committee does not wish to completely forbid the searching for balls in a penalty area. However, the committee urges players to use discretion and caution in walking in the margins of ponds and to avoid unnecessary and careless destruction of the flora and fauna. During the growth period from April 1st until October 31st, players may not enter the environmentally protected no play area to search for or retrieve golf balls. Violators will be evicted from the course.

Local Rules

1 Course Boundaries

On holes 1, 3 north side and 9 the course boundary is defined by white poles.

On hole 3 east side and hole 4 the course boundary is defined by the edge of the paved path adjacent to the road running parallel to the fourth fairway, and by white poles in the area of the guard hut next to the ESTEC East Gate.

On holes 5, 6 and 7 the course boundary is defined by the ESTEC perimeter fence, including the fence to the Space Expo.

Explanatory note: The no play area between the 7th green and the fence to the Space Expo is not considered out of bounds, but balls in this area may not be played as lies. Please see section 6 of the local rules. The cleared strip on the inside of the ESTEC perimeter fence is a controlled security area and should not be entered, even though it is not formally a no play area.

In all cases reference is made to the definitions of 'Out of Bounds' in the Rules of Golf.

2 Obstructions

2-1 The wooden bridges on holes 2, 3, 5 and 7 as well as the stone bridge on hole 6 are immovable obstructions.

2-2 All other paths, including those parts that pass over ditches/water hazards, are integral parts of the general area; no relief may be taken.

2-3 Protective netting, including its support structures, as may be found near the tee boxes of holes 4, 6, 8 and 9 as well as the wooden structure on the path from the seventh green to the eighth tee are immovable obstructions and relief may be taken with respect to the intended swing and/or stance of the player as defined in rule 16-1.

Explanatory note: Intervention with the intended line-of-flight by such obstructions is in itself not considered interference under this rule and no relief may be taken.

2-4 Fixed sprinkler heads are considered immovable obstructions and relief may be taken according to rule 16.1. IN ADDITION if a ball lies off the putting green but not in a penalty area or bunker, and such an obstruction within two club-lengths of the putting green, and within two club-lengths of the ball, 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 intervention and
- (c) Is not in a hazard or on a putting green.

The ball may be cleaned when so lifted.

2-5 Penalty Area Markers

Penalty area markers are movable obstructions. Relief may be taken in accordance with Rule 15-2.

Explanatory note: Penalty area markers can be removed temporarily to play the next shot. It is very important that the marker be replaced in the same position after the shot. To do this the location of the marker should be marked. This is particularly important in order to ensure that the penalty area is the same for the next golfer as it was for you.

2-6 If a ball is in GUR, the ball MUST be dropped outside the GUR in accordance with rule 16.1.

2-6 If young trees indicated by blue ribbons, paint or blue stakes interfere with a player's stance or the area of his intended swing, the ball must be lifted without penalty and dropped in accordance with the procedure prescribed in rule 16-1.

Explanatory note: Supporting stakes, ropes or protective shields clearly belonging to a tree thus to be protected are deemed part of the tree and relief may be taken. Any other supporting stakes are integral parts of the course and are NOT considered obstructions.

3 Ball played provisionally under rule 17

To prevent delays in play, on holes 3 and 6, if there is doubt whether a ball is in or is lost in the penalty area, the player may play another ball provisionally under any of the applicable options in rule 17.

If the original ball is found outside the penalty area, the player MUST continue play with it.

If the original ball is found in the penalty area, the player may either play the original ball as it lies or continue with the ball played provisionally.

If the original ball is not found within the three minute search period, the player MUST continue with the ball played provisionally.

Explanatory note: If the original ball is found inside the penalty area, the player may NOT again re-drop the ball under rule 17.

4 Dropping zones

4-1 If a ball is hit into or is deemed lost in the penalty areas behind the second green or the third green, the player may

- a) play the ball as it lies or
- b) proceed according to rule 17-1d(1), stroke-and-distance relief, or
- c) drop a ball, under penalty of one stroke, in the respective dropping zone.

Explanatory note: Relief according to option c) may not be taken if a ball is deemed lost in any other area near to the third green, in particular the areas of rough to the left of the green.

4-2 If a ball is hit into or deemed lost in the no play zones indicated by green-topped stakes behind the fourth green and the seventh green, such a ball may not be played as it lies. The player may proceed according to rule 19-2a or drop a ball, under penalty of one stroke, in the respective dropping zone.

5 Protected Plants

Orchids such as can be found in the no play zone behind the fourth green may also be found in other areas of the course, in particular in the margins of various ponds. If there is danger that such plants may be damaged by a player's stance or by his intended swing, the ball MUST be lifted without penalty and dropped in accordance with the procedure prescribed in rule 16-1 (Ground Under Repair).

If the ball is situated in a penalty area, the nearest point of relief must be in the penalty area and the ball must be dropped in the penalty area, or the player may proceed under rule 17.

6 Abnormal ground conditions, Winter rules

6-1 If the local rule 'tee up only from the mats' is invoked at the notice board near the check-in, the definition of teeing ground is reduced to the area of the mats.

6-2 If the local rule 'placing on fairways' is invoked at the notice board near the check-in, and if a ball comes to rest in an area of closely mown grass in the general area, the ball may be lifted without penalty, cleaned and placed not further than one scorecard length from the spot where the ball was originally situated. The ball must be marked before being lifted under this local rule.

7 Alternative to Stroke and Distance Penalty

If a ball is deemed lost in the general area of the course or is deemed to have gone out-of-bounds, the player may, as an alternative to the stroke-and-distance penalty proceed as follows, with a penalty of TWO penalty strokes:

- The player shall estimate as accurately as possible the spot where the original ball is lost or has crossed the out-of-bounds margin. For the purpose of these proceedings this spot shall be denominated point "A".
- The player shall determine the spot on the nearest margin of the fairway of the hole in play that is equidistant from the flag as point "A". This spot shall be denominated point "B". If no equidistant point on the fairway or otherwise on an area of close-mown grass can be found, point "B" shall be determined as the equidistant point on the center line of the general area of the hole in question, but not in a penalty area or a bunker.
- The player shall then determine the two lines leading from the flag through points "A" and "B" and may determine the dropping area for his ball as follows:
 - o Anywhere between both lines, but not closer to the flag than point "A"
 - o In a strip two clublengths wide outside of either line, but not closer to the flag than point "A".

Explanatory note: This optional local rule may not be applied for any ball that is found, but deemed unplayable, or for any balls lost in a penalty area or a bunker. Schematics explaining the application of this local rule are available in the Check-in.