

# GENERAL CONDITIONS AND HARD CARD OF THE PGA POLSKA TOUR 2024

## Part A GENERAL CONDITIONS

### 1. Rules of play and standards of players behaviour

- 1.1 The tournaments will be played according to the Rules of Golf as approved by the R&A Rules Ltd., the PGA-Poland Hard Card 2024 and Local Rules approved by the Tournament Committee and published during the ProAm tournament. In the event of a dispute arising as to the meaning of any Rule of Golf, Local Rule or Term of Competition, the Rule will be interpreted according to the English edition of the Rules of Golf 2023.
- 1.2 All players are expected to behave in accordance with the standards of the game of golf. The Code of Conduct is in force in PGA Poland Tour 2024. Any player who violates the standards of the Code of Conduct may be punished after a previous one-time warning by the rules official. The decision to apply such a penalty may be made by the rules official on the basis of his own assessment of the situation (Rule 1.2a, b). In the case of caddy's violation of the standards of behavior, the penalty is borne by the player who employs him.

Penalties for breach the Standards of the Code of Conduct:

First breach - a warning

Second breach - the penalty of two strokes

Third breach - disqualification

In the event of disqualification due to a violation of the Code of Conduct, a disqualified player will be banned from participating in two consecutive PGA Poland series tournaments, to which he applies and in accordance with the rules of the competition, he will be eligible. In the event of a repeated violation of this ban, the player will be excluded from participation in PGA Poland tournaments for a period of 2 years.

Examples of serious breach of the Code of Conduct:

- Deliberate, serious damage to Putting Green.
- Change the marking of the golf course, i.e. adjusting the tee markers, field border stakes, marking penalty areas, distance bars, land markings in the repair.
- Throwing clubs.
- Do not repair grass turf after shot, so-called divots.
- No raking of bunkers after shot.
- Deliberately dissipating other players during shots.
- Removing natural impediments or artificial handicaps by depriving another player of the benefits of their position.
- Multiple refusals to raise the ball when it disturbs other players
- Intentional putting in a different direction than the hole to help and show the player his game line.
- Deliberately play against the Rules to gain a significant advantage in spite of the penalty for violating the applicable Rule.
- Using a vulgar or offensive language
- Alcohol consumption during the round of the main tournament
- Play under the influence of alcohol during the round of the main tournament

### 2. Form of play

Professionals - 18 holes in the Gross Stroke play

Amateurs with HCP to 9,9 - 18 holes in the Gross Stroke play

Amateurs with HCP 10,0-36,0: 18 holes in the Net Stroke Play format

Additional classifications according to the Tournament Conditions of PGA Polska TOUR

### **3. Eligibility to play**

The following players are eligible to play in tournaments organized by, or under the auspices of PGA-Poland:

- PGA-Poland members with a regulated membership fee for the given season,
- PGA-Poland Applicants who passed their qualifying rounds
- PGA-Poland Students
- Non amateurs
- Players who received the approval of the Tournaments Director and fulfil the following criteria:  
Are members of other PGA's,  
Have documented results from other professional Tours or tournaments.  
Players who are suspended or excluded from PGA-Poland membership WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PLAY IN PGA-POLAND TOURNAMENTS WITHOUT ANY EXCEPTIONS.

### **4. Start Lists and Registration**

Registration for the tournament can only be done via the registration website.

The start lists will be published on the website [www.pgapolska.com](http://www.pgapolska.com) by 21:00 on the day preceding the tournament / Pro-Am round/. Any other list will be non-binding.

### **5. Time of starting (Rule 5-3)**

The competitor must start on time, that is, he must be ready to play on the start time and at the starting point set by the Committee. Penalty for breach of Rule 5.3a: disqualification, except for three cases:

1. A competitor arrives at the starting place, ready to play, no more than five minutes after the set time - he receives the general penalty applied to the first hole.
2. The competitor starts no more than five minutes before the set time - he receives the general penalty applied to the first hole.
3. The Committee decided that extraordinary circumstances made it impossible for the competitor to start at the appointed time: There is no breach of this rule and no penalty.

### **6. Results and scorecards**

#### **6.1**

The marker is required to record only gross results on each hole.

#### **6.2**

The receipt and receipt of score cards will take place in the Tournament Center by a person indicated by the Tournament Committee within 15 minutes after the end of the round. Competitors from a given starting group are required to take their cards simultaneously. Responsibility for providing correct results is borne by the player.

#### **6.3**

In the case when the Committee wants to provide results after the end of a given hole, the marker is required to provide the result of its player. Failure to provide a result or provide an incorrect result may result in a financial penalty or in exceptional cases - disqualification.

#### **6.4**

The location of the Recording Area will be published in the Local Rules for the tournament. The Score Card is returned when the player leaves the recording Area with both feet.

### **7. Cut**

After the second tournament day, the cut will be used. 72 players plus draws will advance to the second round. All players who fail the cut will have the opportunity to play round after the tournament.

### **8. Competition Closed**

The result of the tournament is officially announced when the final results sheet is placed on the official notice board at the tournament venue.

## **9. Deciding Ties**

### **9.1**

If there is a tie for first place, there will be a hole-by-hole play-off to determine the winner.

### **9.2**

In the case of exceptionally unfavorable weather conditions (danger of lightning, course unplayable, etc.), the the Committee Director will decide on other manner of determining the winner.

## **10. Awards**

### **10.1**

The failure to collect a prize by an amateur is tantamount to its loss. In-kind prizes that will not be collected during the award ceremony will be transferred to an additional competition during the final of the cycle - PGA Polska Championship-

### **10.2**

Professionals and amateurs with HCP to 9,9 are required to attend the award ceremony and sign the attendance list. Failure to sign the list will result in non-payment of the cash prize.

### **10.3**

Amateurs with handicap to 9.9 in the Gross Stroke Play category can win cash prizes in accordance with R&A guidelines.

## **11. Course setting**

### **11.1**

The tournament will be played from the tee stated in the tournament regulations, while the tees set for the trial round will be the longest tee from which the tournament rounds will be played. The Committee reserves the right to change this point of the regulations in specific cases. Each time it will be announced 3 days before the start of the tournament.

### **11.2**

The distance difference between tee for male professionals, and tee for female professionals, can not be greater than 10% and not less than 4% of the entire field length from a male professional tee.

### **11.3**

Amateurs who wish to do so by previously reporting this fact to the Tournament Committee may play with professional tee during the Pro-Am tournament

## **12. Unplayable course (Rule 20.3)**

If the Tournament Organizing Committee determines that for any reason the field is unsuitable for play or that there are reasons to prevent the game, it may order temporary suspension of the game or cancel the game and all results of the round. If the field is not fit for play and it will not be possible to play the regular number of holes in the time provided for the tournament, this time will not be extended, and the tournament result will be determined based on the completed score cards of the tournament rounds. If it is not possible to play at least one round (18 holes), the tournament will be canceled

## **13. Obligation to play in the Pro-Am tournament**

Presence during the Pro-Am tournament is OBLIGATORY for the first 18 professional players from the PGA Polska Order of Merit list. Players who can not participate in the Pro-Am tournament will not be admitted to the main event unless they take part in a higher category tournament at this time (eg Challenge Tour, European Tour and satellite tournaments etc.).

## **14. Advertising During the tournament**

No player or his caddy will have the right to display or wear an advertisement that, in the opinion of the Tournament Committee, may conflict with the sponsors of the tournament. In all possible cases of conflict, the exclusive decision on the admission of advertising is left to the Tournament Committee.

## **15. Dress**

Participants are required to wear appropriate attire at each tournament on the golf facility. We understand golf through a golf course, golf driving range, club building, parking lot. Through a golf tournament, we understand the period from the start of the trial and / or Pro-Am tournament to the evening of the tournament ending day.

It is strictly forbidden at this time and place to wear:

- unsuitable footwear (eg flip-flops),
- jeans, shorts,
- outfit deviating from generally accepted norms

For amateurs, it is allowed to play in appropriate shorts.

The penalty for not complying with the above guidelines is for professionals as well as trainees and non-amateurs according to the penalties:

- MEMORAND for the first offense,
- PLN 1,000, - for each subsequent offense.

## **16. Disqualifications**

Any player who does not show up at the start time at the appointed time or does not finish the round without an important reason will be disqualified and will be banned from the start in the next three PGA Poland tournaments.

Explanations regarding interrupting the game or not showing up at the start, must be submitted in writing in the Tournament Center before the end of the tournament, or sent by e-mail to: [biuro@pgapolska.com](mailto:biuro@pgapolska.com) within 7 days of the tournament end date. The letter will be considered by the Disciplinary Committee and if an explanation is accepted, the penalty of the start ban may be revoked. The player will be notified of the decision no later than 7 days before the start of the next tournament. The decision of the Disciplinary Board is final.

## **17. Anti-Doping**

Doping agents are not allowed.

Every competitor who uses doping means during the competition will not be admitted to PGA Poland tournaments for a period of at least 12 months. The Disciplinary Commission of PGA Polska will decide on this matter.

## **18. Final statements**

### **18.1**

Registration for the PGA Poland tournament means that the player:

- a. Have read the General Regulations of PGA Poland Tournaments and accept its provisions,
- b. Have read the Competition Regulations of the given tournament and accept its provisions.

Each participant of the Tournament agrees to take photographs, free use of the image in the film, photo and audiovisual materials prepared by the Tournament Committee or by an entity authorized by the Tournament Committee. Consent to the free use of the tournament participant's image includes multiple use of the tournament participant's image for promotional, marketing, advertising and publishing purposes.

After the second day of the tournament, the cut formula will be used. 72 players will go to the third round, plus draws. All players who do not pass the cut will have the opportunity to play the round after the tournament.

### **18.2**

The decisions of the Tournament Committee regarding the interpretation of the General Regulations of PGA Poland Tournaments and individual Competition Regulations are final and there is no appeal procedure. Any comments and suggestions of participants regarding the status of the field, organization of the tournament or other related matters should be submitted in writing or by e-mail to the following address: [biuro@pgapolska.com](mailto:biuro@pgapolska.com)

The Tournament Committee reserves the right to change the content of these regulations.

## Part B PGA POLSKA TOUR Hard Card 2024

The Local Rules below together with the General Conditions of PGA-Poland Tournaments are valid for **PGA POLSKA TOUR 2024** tournaments and supersede all Local Rules published on score cards of the golf clubs, in which the PGA POLSKA TOUR 2024 tournaments are being held. **For the full text of the Terms and Local Rules, please refer to the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf effective from the 1st of January 2023 as published by R&A Rules Limited.**

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** - (Model Local Rule A-2.2)

- a. A Ball is out of Bounds when it is **beyond** any wall defining the boundary of the course.
- b. A ball that is played from one side of a public 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.

#### 2. **Penalty Areas - Rule 17**

##### a. **Opposite Side Same Distance Relief for Red Penalty Areas**

The local rules published for the competition will specify which (if any) red Penalty Areas have a same distance option on the opposite side. Model Local Rule B-2.1 will apply only to the Penalty Areas that are listed.

##### b. **Opposite Side Relief Where Ball Last Crossed Margin of Penalty Area Where Margin and Boundary of Course Coincide**

When a player's ball last crosses the edge of a penalty area where the edge of the penalty area and a boundary of the course coincide, that edge is deemed red and opposite side relief is available under Model Local Rule B-2.1.

##### c. **Dropping Zones for Penalty Areas**

Where a Dropping Zone is marked for a Penalty Area, it is an additional option under penalty of one stroke. The dropping zone is a Relief Area under Rule 14.3 meaning a ball must be dropped in and come to rest in the Relief Area.

#### 3. **Abnormal Course Conditions - Rule 16.1**

##### a. **Ground Under Repair.**

- All areas bounded by white or blue lines.
- Seams of Cut Turf: Model Local Rule F-7 is in effect
- French drains (stone-filled drainage ditches).

##### b. **Immovable Obstructions.**

- White lined areas and the Immovable Obstruction they tie into are treated as a single Abnormal Ground Condition.
- Landscaped garden areas and everything growing in them that are completely surrounded by an Immovable Obstruction are treated as a single Abnormal Course Condition.
- Mats that are secured and all ramps covering cables.
- Roads or paths that are surfaced with woodchip or mulch. Individual pieces of woodchip are loose impediments.
- Staked trees.
- Erosion damage within bunkers caused by rainfall and related water runoff.

c. **Painted Yardage Spots or Lines. – Model Local Rule F-21**

Painted lines or dots in a part of the General Area cut to fairway height or less are to be treated as Ground Under Repair from which relief is allowed under Rule 16.1b.

**4. Immovable Obstructions Close to Putting Greens - Rule 16.1**

Model Local Rule F-5 is in effect but is modified as follows:

For a ball in the general area, relief may be taken under Rule 16.1b when:

- Both the ball and the obstruction lie in an area cut to fairway height or less.
- The obstruction must be on or within two club lengths of the putting green.
- Be on the Player's line of play.
- The ball must be within two club lengths of the obstruction.

**5. Green Reading Material Restrictions.**

Model Local Rule G-11 is in effect. Only Committee approved materials may be used. Approved materials include:

- Committee approved yardage books from 2024 onwards Note: this does not apply to amateurs playing solely in Pro-Am competitions.
- Committee approved pin position sheets.
- Map of the competition course no larger than an A4 sized piece of paper

Additional restrictions apply to handwritten notes and any other materials used by the player that may help to read the lines of play on the putting green:

- Handwritten notes may only be added to the approved yardage book or approved hole location sheet, either before or during a round, by the player or the player's caddy, and are limited to information collected solely by the player or caddy.
- Handwritten notes may include information obtained only through the player's or his caddy's personal experience, from the golf course or by watching a television broadcast, but is limited to information gained from observing the ball as it is thrown or played (by the player, caddy or someone else); or by player or caddy feel or general observation of the putting green.

Penalty for breach this Local Rule:

Penalty for first breach: general penalty.

Second breach penalty: disqualification.

**6. Integral Objects.**

- a. Wires, cables, wrappings or other objects when closely attached to trees or other permanent objects.
- b. Artificial retaining walls and pilings when located within Penalty Areas.

**7. Permanent Overhead Power Lines**

Model Local Rule E-11 is in effect but only for a ball which strikes a power line located in bounds and not the supporting pole. (Stroke is cancelled, and **MUST** be replayed.)

**8. Animal Not Defined as Loose Impediment Near Ball**

Model Local Rule E-13 is in effect.

An animal not defined as a loose impediment may be removed.

If the player's ball moves while they are removing the animal:

- There is no penalty, and
- The ball must be replaced on its original spot (which if not known must be estimated / see Rule 14.2).

## **9. Temporary Immovable Obstructions. (TIO).**

Model Local Rule F.22 re Temporary Power Lines and Cables and F-23 re TIO are in effect.

- a. **Dropping Zone Policy:** In the General Area, when a player's ball lies in or on a TIO or so close to the TIO that it interferes with the stance or area of intended swing and relief is required, the player may
  - proceed under any of the options allowed under the TIO Local Rule or Rule 16.1
  - if Dropping Zones have been marked, as an additional option, the player may drop the original ball or another ball, without penalty, in the nearest dropping zone. This is true even if it is nearer the hole.
  - The Dropping Zone is a Relief Area under Rule 14.3 meaning a ball must be dropped in and come to rest in the dropping zone.
  
- b. **Either Side Relief.** The Local Rules for the competition will specify which TIO have an either side option. Either side relief is restricted to line of sight relief and is not available when the player chooses to operate under Rule 16.1.

## **10. Clubs and Balls – Rule 4**

- a. **List of Conforming Driver Heads.** Model Local Rule G-1 is in effect.
- b. **Model Local Rule G-10.**  
In making a stroke, the player must not use a club, except for a putter, which exceeds 46 inches in length.  
Penalty for making a stroke with a club in breach of Local Rule G-1 and G-10:  
**Disqualification.**
- c. **Groove and Punch Marks Specifications.** Model Local Rule G-2 is in effect.  
Penalty for making a stroke with a club in breach of this Local Rule:  
**Disqualification.**
- d. **Replacement of club that is broken or significantly damaged** - Local Rule G-9
- e. **Conforming Balls List.** Model Local Rule G-3 is in effect.  
Penalty for breach of this Local Rule:  
**Disqualification.**

## **11. Pace of Play Policy Rule 5.6b (3)**

The time in which the group should play a hole, the round or its part will be determined by the Tournament Committee and published on the notice board. Each group must play according to the time set and must keep its position in relation to the previous group.

### **11.1 Definition "Out of position"**

The first group and any group after a starters gap will be "Out of Position" if, at any time during the round, the group's cumulative time exceeds the time allowed for the number of holes completed. Any following group will be "Out of Position" if it reaches;

- The tee of a par 3 and the group in front have already driven off from the next hole,
- The tee of a par 4 and the group in front have left the putting green,
- The tee of a par 5 and the group in front are on the putting green.

### **11.2 Procedure when group is "out of position"**

The referees will monitor the pace of the game and decide if the group that is "out of time" should have the time measured. If a decision is made to measure the time, each player in this group will be subject to individual measurement of time, and the referee will inform each competitor that he is "out of position" and that he will have the time measured.

The time for each shot should not be longer than: first player in the group – 50 seconds for approach shot, chip or putt, and 40 seconds for the tee shot and the shot of the second, third and fourth player in the group.

Outside the putting green, the time for the shot begins when the player had enough time to reach his ball, it is his time to play and he can make the shot without outside interference. Time spent on measuring the distance is included in the time to play the shot. On the putting green, the time for the shot begins from the moment,

when the player had enough time to lift, clean and replace his ball, repair pitch marks and old hole plugs, remove loose impediments from his line of play. Time spent on reading the green is included in the time to play the shot. If any of the players exceeds this time he will have "bad time". A bad time is carried forward in the round even if the group subsequently arrives back in positions or within time. In some situations a single player, or two players will be timed instead of the entire group.

**Penalty for breach of Pace of Play Policy:** Stroke play:

- 1 bad time – Verbal warning from the Referee.
- 2 bad times – 1 stroke penalty.
- 3 bad times – 2 stroke penalty.
- 4 bad times – Disqualification.

**READY GOLF IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED.**

**11.3 Procedure when the group is again "out of time" in the same round**

If the group is "out of time" more than once during the round, the above procedure will apply each time.

**12. Play Suspensions Rule 5.7**

The following signals will be used to suspend and resume play:

- a. **IMMEDIATE STOP/DANGEROUS SITUATION** – One prolonged note of the siren.
- b. Normal non-dangerous stop – three consecutive short notes of the siren.
- c. Resume play – two short notes of the siren.

**When play is stopped in a dangerous situation, all practice areas are immediately closed.**

**13. Practice. Rule 5 (does not apply to pro-am)**

**13.1 Practice before or between rounds in Stroke Play. Rule 5.2b.**

Rule 5.2b is modified in this way:

A player must not practice on the competition course before or between rounds.

Penalty for breach of Rule 5.2: 1<sup>st</sup> breach: General Penalty, 2<sup>nd</sup> breach: Disqualification.

**13.2 Practice on or near Previous Putting Green Prohibited. Rule 5.5b.**

For stroke play events only, 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.

**14. Caddie**

Rules 10.3a is modified in this way:

**14.1**

A caddy cannot be a player participating in the same tournament.

Penalty for breach of the Local Rule:

The player gets the general penalty for each hole during which he is helped by a caddie.

**14.2**

If a player hires a caddy during a PRO-AM round or a tournament round, and if the sponsor requests that his logo be promoted on the caddy's aprons, it is mandatory for each caddy to wear a suitable apron throughout the tournament.

**14.3**

No other logos may be added to the apron without the permission of the Tournament Committee

**15. Transportation Policy. (Melex type)**



Rule 4.3a has been modified as follows (Model Local Rule G-6)

- A player or caddy may not use any means of transportation during a round except with the approval or subsequent approval of the Committee. (A player who will play, or has played under penalty of stroke and distance, always has permission from the Committee to travel by transportation.)
- Penalty for Breach of a Local Rule: Penalty of two strokes for each hole on which a Local Rule is broken. If the breach occurs between holes, the penalty applies to the next hole.
- Golf carts are allowed during Pro-Am tournaments and practice rounds.

#### **16. Audio and Video (Rule 4.3a (4) - Rule 4.3a)**

Rule 4.3a (4) is modified in this way: (Model Local Rule G-8):

During a round, a player must not listen to or watch content of any nature on a personal audio and video devices altogether during a round.

Penalty for breach of Rule 4.3: 1<sup>st</sup> breach: General Penalty, 2<sup>nd</sup> breach: Disqualification.

- In exceptional situations: a dangerous situation (storm), for medical reasons and for consultation with judges, a player can use a mobile phone.

#### **17. Scoring in Stroke Play**

Model Local Rule L-1 applies. 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 (two penalty strokes). The penalty applies to the last hole of the player's round.

#### **PGA POLSKA TOUR 2024**

Subject to change