



Special local rules in the corona period

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the GCH Ruling Committee issued local rules so that GCH running golf competitions under the Rules of Golf in the corona period.

To avoid contact with potentially contaminated objects, the following rules apply for the duration of the corona crisis:

1. BUNKERS (NO RACKS ARE IN THE BUNKERS)

If a ball is lying in a bunker from which the Ruling Committee has removed the rakes to prevent infection, and if the position of the ball is affected by insufficient levelling of the sand by other players, the ball may be marked, picked up, cleaned and placed better in the bunker within one club-length not nearer to the hole than where the ball came to rest without penalty.

Players are requested to make their best efforts to smooth bunkers using their feet or a club, which was the method used to smooth bunkers until the relatively modern practice of having rakes on the course was introduced.

2. FLAGSTICKS

The GCH Ruling Committee has decided that players must always leave the flagstick in the hole. Flagsticks may not be touched or taken out of the hole. This also applies when removing the ball from the hole. Players are allowed to centre the flagstick in a safe manner which does not involve using the hand (for example, by using a club). The centring of the flagstick is also allowed while another player is putting.

3. HOLE AND DEFINITION OF HOLED

It will be used a method of inserting the hole liner that means that all of the ball does not fall below the surface of the putting green and can be easily retrieved by handling the ball only.

To make it easier to take the ball out of the hole, the hole is filled up to the upper edge of the hole liner and covered with a cupinlay. When a ball comes to rest on it, it is considered to be holed.

4. OBSTRUCTIONS

Any artificial object on the golf course is defined as an immovable obstruction. Obstructions must not be touched or removed.

This also applies to course marker posts, tee markers, benches, etc.)

Relief without penalty is permitted under Rule 16.1.

5. SCORECARDS

The GCH Ruling Committee has decided to allow methods of scoring in stroke play that do not strictly comply with Rule 3.3b or do not comply with the normal methods used under Rule 3.3b.:

a. An exchange of the scorecards is not permitted.

b. Players enter their own hole scores on the scorecard (it is not necessary for a marker to do it).

c. It is not necessary to have a marker physically certify the player's hole scores, but a verbal certification has to take place.

d. Only the player signs his own scorecard and hands it in at the secretary's office or a predefined place.

e. No scorecard will be filled out in a matchplay. The winner must inform the secretary's office of the result by telephone or e-mail.

Unless otherwise stated, the penalty in breach of a special local rule is the general penalty (loss of a hole in the matchplay or 2 penalty strokes in the stroke play).