



Moving to the 2019 Rules of Golf:

LOCAL RULES FOR CLUB SCORECARDS

- **The objective of this resource is to provide information to help you with the task of making your scorecard Local Rules ready for the new Rules of Golf when they come into effect on 1/1/2019.**
- **SECTION 1** (of this resource). Most of your Local Rules will only require changes to a few key words. These word-change requirements are the result of new terminology that has been introduced into the Rules by The R&A and United States Golf Association. **Section 1** lists the words to look out for.
- **SECTION 2.** A number of relief options that were previously only available by Local Rule have been moved into the actual Rules of Golf and will automatically apply at your club. As a result, it is possible that some of your Local Rules can now be withdrawn. A list of these redundant Local Rules is set out in **Section 2**.
- **ALTERNATIVE TO STROKE & DISTANCE PENALTY FOR LOST BALL OR BALL OUT OF BOUNDS.** [Click here](#) to access the R&A Local Rule Creator to the alternative to stroke & distance penalty for lost ball or ball out of bounds. www.randa.org/en/rog/2019/pages/local-rules-creator

Further points to note:

- Supplies of old scorecards can continue to be used after 31/12/2018 until they have been exhausted (provided players in competitions operate under 2019-compliant Local Rules).
 - Model Local Rules are no longer included in the Rule book, or in the Player's Edition booklet. If on your current scorecards for one or more of your Local Rules you simply list a heading and a page reference in the Rule book, this reference will need to be changed. As a new source for the full information, the options available to you include: posting on a club noticeboard, or club website, or directing to The R&A's webpage for Model Local Rules (provided above), etc.
 - If you reference Rule numbers in your Local Rules, please be mindful that all of the Rule numbers have changed in the new Rules. As a result, you will need to change the Rule numbers you list.
 - Once you have progressed to the stage of producing a final draft of your new scorecard Local Rules, feel free to email this to us if you would like us to review it (simonm@golf.org.au). But remember, you know your course and members better than us, so it will be difficult for us to identify any Local Rules you should have included but haven't!
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- **SECTION 1. A list of changes to terminology that is commonly-used in Local Rules.**
 - **SECTION 2. Local Rules no longer required because of incorporation into the Rules of Golf.**

SECTION 1.

Changes to terminology that is commonly-used in Local Rules

When updating your scorecards and Local Rules, please be mindful of the following terminology changes:

- The term **“through the green”** is changed to **“general area”**.
- The term **“lateral water hazard”** is changed to **“red penalty area”**.
(Note: Committees will now have the discretion to mark all penalty areas as red so that lateral relief is always allowed (but they may still mark penalty areas as yellow where they consider it appropriate). Under the 2019 Rules, The R&A encourages committees to mark most penalty areas red to give players the additional option of lateral relief. However, where part of the challenge of the hole is to carry over a penalty area such as a stream that crosses the front of the putting green and there is a good chance that a ball that carries over the stream could fall back into it, the committee can decide to mark the penalty area as yellow.)
- The term **“water hazard”** is changed to **“yellow penalty area”**.
- The term **“no play zone”** has been introduced.
Note:
 - A committee can use no play zones for any reason.
 - A no play zone must be defined as either an abnormal course condition (i.e. ground under repair, an animal hole, an immovable obstruction, or temporary water) or a penalty area.
- The term **“integral part of the course”** is changed to **“integral object”**.
- Change any reference of **“hole made by a burrowing animal”** to **“animal hole”**.
Note: The Rules no longer distinguish between a burrowing animal (which is a defined term in the 2019 Rules) and a non-burrowing animal.
- The term **“casual water”** is changed to **“temporary water”**.
- The term **“relief area”** has been introduced. It is the area in which a player must drop a ball when taking relief under a Rule or a Local Rule. The ball must be dropped in the relief area and it must come to rest in the relief area.
- The term **“general penalty”** has been introduced. It means “Loss of hole in match play or two penalty strokes in stroke play.”

SECTION 2.

Local Rules no longer required from 1/1/2019 because of incorporation into the Rules of Golf

The following are examples of Local Rules that will not be required from 1 January 2019 [the reason why each Local Rule is no longer required is listed in square brackets].

- Local Rule allowing the use of **distance measuring devices** [becomes a Rule of Golf].
- Local Rule allowing players to **remove loose stones in bunkers** [becomes a Rule of Golf].
- Local Rule **waiving the penalty for accidentally moving a ball on the putting green** [becomes a Rule of Golf].
- Local Rule allowing free relief for an **embedded ball through the green** [becomes a Rule of Golf].
- Local Rule **waiving the additional penalty for returning an incorrect score card due to an unknown penalty** [becomes a Rule of Golf].
- Local rule providing relief from **accumulations of leaves in bunkers** [leaves are loose impediments and loose impediments may be removed from bunkers under the new Rules]. However, if the accumulations are so severe that balls are regularly being lost in them (whether in bunkers or outside of bunkers), committees do still have the option of treating accumulations of leaves in the general area and in bunkers to be ground under repair.