

Hard Card / Local Rules BWGV Tournaments 2026



In all BWGV association tournaments, the following Local Rules and guidelines apply in excerpt form:

Unless the Rules of Golf provide otherwise, the penalty for breach of Local Rule is the General Penalty.

1. Out of Bounds (Rule 18.2)

Defined by white stakes, fences, or walls. Where white lines are used, they take precedence over other markings.

2. Penalty Area (PA) adjacent to Out of Bounds (MPR B-2.2)

If a penalty area borders out of bounds, the boundary of the penalty area extends to and coincides with the out of bounds line.

If a player's ball last crosses the boundary of a red penalty area that coincides with out of bounds, the player may take an additional relief option, with one penalty stroke, by dropping a ball on the opposite side of the penalty area.

3. No Play Zones (NPZ) (Rule 2.4)

Marked by stakes with green tops. If entering a No Play Zone is prohibited, such entry may be considered serious misconduct under Rule 1.2.

If a ball lies outside a NPZ in the general area, a bunker, or on the putting green, but the NPZ interferes with the area of the intended swing or stance, the player must proceed under Rule 16.1f (2).

If entry into a NPZ is prohibited, entering the NPZ may be considered serious misconduct under Rule 1.2.

4. Abnormal Course Conditions (including Immovable Obstructions) (Rule 16.1)

- Jede Fläche, die durch weiße Einkreisungen und/oder blaue Pfähle a) Any area marked with white lines and/or blue stakes. If both are present, the line takes precedence.
- Newly laid turf (sod)
- Drainage ditches filled with gravel
- Immovable obstructions include plantings marked with stakes, sleeves, tapes, or ropes
- Paths made of wood chips, bark mulch, or similar materials
- No relief for animal holes if only the player's stance is affected
- Immovable obstructions close to the putting green (e.g. sprinkler heads); MLR F-5.2 applies

5. Power Lines

If it is known or virtually certain that a player's ball has struck a power line within the course boundaries, the stroke does not count. The player must replay a ball without penalty from where the previous stroke was made (see Rule 14.6).

6. Use of Golf Carts or Similar Transportation

Players or caddies must not use any form of transportation during a stipulated round unless temporary use is explicitly authorized by the Committee/referees.

In team competitions, the same applies to team captains while their team is in play (exception: see BWGV tournament conditions, Local Rules, point 6.5).

A player who, under stroke-and-distance relief, plays or must play from the previous spot may at any time use motorized transport.

7. Practice (Rule 5.2 and 5.5)

Rule 5.2a (Match Play) and 5.2b (Stroke Play) are modified as follows: A player must not practice on the competition course before or between rounds on tournament days.

Penalty for 1st breach: General Penalty
Penalty for 2nd breach: Disqualification

Rule 5.5 is modified as follows:

Between two holes, a player must not make practice strokes on or near the putting green of the last hole played, must not test the putting surface by rubbing or rolling a ball, and must not practice on or near a practice green.

Penalty for breach: General Penalty

8. Suspension and Resumption of Play (Rule 5.7)

Signal tones for suspension of play:

- Immediate suspension: One prolonged siren tone
- Normal suspension: Three consecutive siren tones
- Resumption of play: Two short siren tones

Regardless of this, any player may suspend play immediately in case of lightning danger (Rule 5.7a).

9. Pace of Play (Rule 5.6, MLR K-2)

The maximum time allowed to complete 18 holes is defined by the times shown on the scorecard. Players must be aware of the guidelines for

pace of play (Rule 5.6) and Local Rule B-12 in the BWGV tournament conditions.

Penalty for 1st bad time: Warning

Penalty for 2nd bad time: One penalty stroke

Penalty for 3rd bad time: General Penalty (in addition to penalty for second breach)

Penalty for 4th breach: Disqualification

Ready Golf:

In stroke play, play "Ready Golf" in a safe and responsible manner.

Example of "out of position":

All players in the group ahead have played from the next tee before your group reaches a par-3 tee, or a par-4 or par-5 hole is clear before all players in your group have teed off.

Exceeding time limit per stroke:

If a player is observed by a referee taking more than 90 seconds for a stroke, they will be warned and formally instructed to speed up play. The player will also be informed that timing may begin at any time, even if the group is not out of position.

10. Failure to Certify Player and Marker (MLR L-1)

If a scorecard is returned without hole scores being confirmed by the player, the marker, or both, the player incurs the General Penalty.

Note: Submission of scorecard in the scoring area:

A scorecard is considered submitted once the player has left the scoring area. Players are strongly encouraged to personally submit their scorecard to avoid misunderstandings.

BWGV conduct rules according to Rule 1.2 apply and can be found in the full version of the Local Rules (BWGV tournament conditions, point 13).

Special Rule for Youth Tournaments

Distance measuring devices and electric trolleys are permitted in all BWGV youth tournaments.

In addition to Rule 3.3b(1), in BWGV youth tournaments the marker MUST confirm and record the number of strokes (including penalties) with the player after each hole. Entries must be made in indelible ink.

Penalty for 1st breach: 2 penalty strokes

Penalty for 2nd breach: Disqualification

In addition to Rule 3.3b(1) and (2), scores on the scorecard must be confirmed by both marker and player in the scoring area.

Penalty for confirmation outside the scoring area: 2 penalty strokes

In all BWGV youth tournaments (up to U18), smoking and alcohol are strictly prohibited throughout the entire event.

Penalty for breach: Disqualification