

Guide for Committees

Introduction

In support of the recommendation included within the R&A's Committee Procedures, CONGU® have updated their guidance in relation to the Model Local Rule E5 – “Alternative to Stroke and Distance”.

The Committee Procedures allow for the introduction of additional relief options when a ball is lost outside a penalty area or out of bounds, by way of Model Local Rule E5. This local rule is appropriate for general play where golfers are playing casual rounds or playing their own competitions.

Under the CONGU® Unified Handicapping System scores must not be submitted for handicap adjustment if this local rule is in place.

Where the Local Rule is in use for general play, the club must ensure they remind players that the local rule is not allowed when scores are to be submitted for handicap adjustment via a Qualifying Competition or Supplementary Score.

Clarification of CONGU® Decision

CONGU® are adopting the R&A's guidance on Model Local Rule 8E-5. The most important areas where the changes require reference to the National Union are:

“The Local Rule is appropriate for general play where golfers are playing casual rounds or playing their own competitions” (R&A Committee Procedure, Section 8 – Model Local Rules)

<https://www.randa.org/en/rog/2019/rules/committee-procedures/8e#e-5>

In order to maintain a level playing field of the game and preserve the integrity of scores returned for handicap purposes, Model Local Rule E5 is not permitted for Qualifying Competitions or Supplementary Scores.

In the event of a ball being lost, under the Model Local Rule E5 it is up to the player's best judgement as to where the ball was lost and subsequently where a second ball can be dropped. Disagreements could arise and add time to the playing of the hole. The need to play a provisional ball where an element of doubt exists has become common practice and has been for some time. In fairness to the player and the rest of the field any uncertainty has been removed.

Please Note

Should you require any further clarification, please contact your National Association.