



# GOLF CANADA

## LOCAL RULES FOR SAND GREENS

Play is governed by the 2016 Golf Canada Rules of Golf, the 2016-2017 Golf Canada Decisions on the Rules of Golf and, where applicable, by the following local Rules and Conditions of Competition approved by the Rules and Amateur Status Committee of Golf Canada, subject to changes, additions or deletions for particular Championships. The player's attention is drawn to Conditions of Competition as printed on the forms accompanying applications for entry. Complete text of Rules and Appendices may be found in the 2016 Golf Canada Rules of Golf. The following Local Rules issued by Golf Canada will apply throughout Canada from January 1, 2016. The Rules of Golf as approved by Golf Canada, so far as they are not at variance with these Local Rules, will apply, and they are to be read in conjunction with these special Rules for Sand Greens.

### Etiquette

1. The last player to hole their ball on the putting green should empty the hole of sand and ensure that the flagstick is centered in the hole.
2. One of the players in the group should smooth the sand within six feet of the hole as a courtesy to following players.
3. It is recommended that the smoother be pulled towards the hole, not pushed.
4. The putting green should be smoothed in a consistently weighted and continuous action.

### Definitions

- **Ball holed** - A ball is deemed to be holed within the meaning of Definition of "Holed" of the Rules of Golf when it lies wholly within the circumference of the hole even if the entire ball is not below the level of the lip of the hole due to sand left in the hole.
- **Hole** - For the purpose of Section II, Definitions of the Rules of Golf, a hole liner having an inner diameter of 4¼ inches (108 mm) may be used provided that its upper edge is not more than ¼ inch (6 mm) below the surface of the putting green.
- **Hole Hook** - an implement approved by the Committee for a fellow competitor, opponent or another person authorized by the side, to remove the hole liner for emptying sand from the hole. A player is not penalized under Rule 16-1 for performing such an action.
- **Loose Sand** - Sand and loose soil on a sand green is not a loose impediment.
- **Putting Green** - The putting green is the sanded portion specially prepared for putting as defined by the Committee. The term "sand" in these Rules includes similar material composing the putting surface. The Putting Green includes any edging material around the putting green.
- **Smoother** - The smoother is the implement provided or approved by the Committee for use by players to smooth the putting green for putting. The blade of the smoother should not be less than 24 inches (61 cm) in length.
- **Smoother Stand** - a course may have a stand near the putting green to hold the Smoother and/or Hole Hook. These stands or the like, are Immovable Obstruction under Rule 24-2. Note 1: A player having interference on his line of play is not entitled to relief unless the ball is within 2 club lengths of the putting green.

### Rules

#### 1. SMOOTHING

When the ball lies on the putting green, or within two club-lengths of the putting green, the line from the player's ball to the hole may be smoothed subject to the following:

- a) When both a rake and smoother are provided, the rake may be used for the first pass, provided the final smooth is made with the smoother.
- b) When the ball lies on the putting green, the player may smooth from a point beyond the spot from where the player's ball was lifted to the hole, and must continue at least two club-lengths beyond the hole.

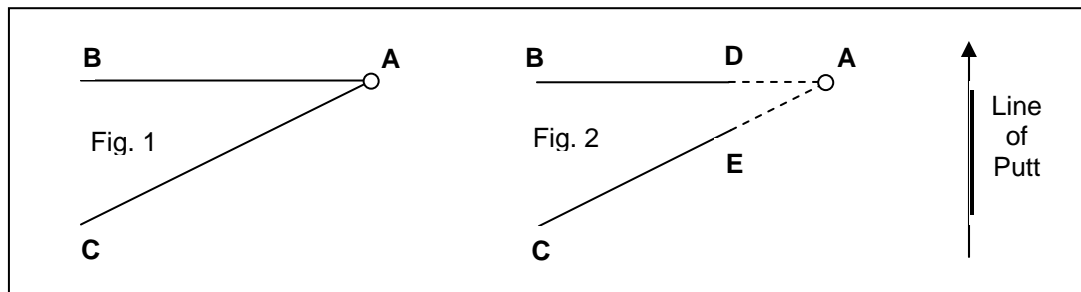
**Exception:** When a ball lies within one club-length of the hole, the player is only required to smooth beyond the hole a distance equal to the length of putt.

- c) When the ball lies within two club-lengths of the putting green, the player may smooth from the edge of the putting green on a line from the ball to the hole and must continue at least two club-lengths beyond the hole.
- d) The smoother should be used such that there is not any ridge or heaping of sand that could be to a player's advantage. If the player's ball is deflected by a ridge of sand at the edge of the smoothed portion, there is no penalty and the ball must be played as it lies. However, if it is holed after being deflected by the ridge, the player must add one penalty stroke.
- e) The smoother may be used by the player or any person authorized by the player. The player is responsible for any breach of the Rules.
- f) In the smoothing of sand where a loose impediment causes a mark to be made on the surface of the green, the surface may be re-smoothed.

**NOTE:** when using the Smoother or Hole Hook in the accepted methods above, the player is not penalized under Rule 16-1 for **Touching Line of Putt**.

## 2. LIFTING, MARKING AND REPLACING THE BALL

Rule 20-1 applies. The recommended method of marking a ball prior to lifting the ball and smoothing the green:



Before lifting the ball, two straight lines (AB and AC) are scratched in the sand as shown in Fig. 1. These lines should extend sideways from the ball. "A" is the marked position of the ball. When smoothing is completed, the dotted portions of the lines (represented by AD and AE) in Fig. 2 will no longer exist. "A" can readily be located by projecting the lines (BD and CE) until they meet. The point of intersection will be "A" and the ball must be replaced on that spot.

## 3. EXCESS SAND IN HOLE

Except when a ball is in motion on the putting green, players are permitted to remove sand from the hole.

## 4. PLANTS GROWING ON PUTTING GREEN

The player is permitted to remove weeds and other plants growing on the putting green.

## 5. DAMAGE TO PUTTING GREEN

Any damage to the putting green caused by the impact of a ball, or otherwise, may be repaired. NOTE: If a golf course uses a rake with tines to prepare the green surface for the next group, the tine marks left behind are not considered Damage to the Putting Green.

Unless otherwise noted, penalty for breach of this Local Rule:  
**Match play - Loss of hole; Stroke play – Two strokes**

**RULES OF GOLF COMMITTEE – GOLF CANADA**  
**Local Rules for Sand Greens – Version 2 - Revised Feb 2017**