



# Awali Golf Club



## AWALI GOLF CLUB LOCAL RULES Effective 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024

Golf at AGC is conducted under the R&A Rules Of Golf, the WHS, and, as displayed on the Clubhouse Notice Board: Specific and General *Terms of the Competition* and Local Rules (only shaded items below are shown on the *scorecard*)

- 1) Where the *scorecard* does not show a player's name or the competition name or date, it is the players responsibility to record these details. See Committee Procedures 5A(5) There is no penalty for failure to comply.

### a. TEEING AREAS AND GENERAL AREA

- 2) *Teeing areas* are defined by the extremities of the tee-box. Stringed *tees* may be used provided they are not used in a manner that indicates line of play.
- 3) Fairways (the equivalent of the *general area* cut to fairway height) are defined by oiled Fairway Lines. These lines are part of the Fairway. For the Fairway in play, cold-patched, oiled and other man-made surfaces, *bunker ropes* and their fastenings are designated as *integral objects*.
- 4) Supported young trees, exposed irrigation systems, and areas marked "GUR" (*Ground Under Repair*) are *no play zones* (proceed under Rules 16.1(b) and 14.3). Supports for mature trees, path marker stones and groundsmen's huts are *immovable obstructions* which must not be moved.
- 5) All oil/gas pipelines are environmentally sensitive areas, *abnormal course conditions* and *no play zones*. The edge of the *no play zone* is the outside edge of the outermost pipe or any related installation. Free relief must be taken (proceed under Rules 16.1(b) and 14.3). Exception: when playing the 14<sup>th</sup>, free relief must be taken by dropping the ball in the nearest Dropping Zone (proceed under Rule 14.3, reading "Relief Area" as "Dropping Zone").
- 6) The player may take a "Preferred Lie" on the Fairway of the hole in play. If taking a Preferred Lie, the player must mark the ball before touching it, then lift it, then place it within 15cm of where it originally lay, not nearer the *hole*. A player who touches the ball before marking it is subject to a one stroke penalty (see Rule 14.1a).
- 7) The player may use a *Committee* approved mat when taking a Preferred Lie or when playing within the *teeing area*. If taking a Preferred Lie with the use of the mat, the mat is deemed to be the *ball-marker*. The player must place the mat first as close as possible to the ball then place the ball not nearer than one ball's width from the edge of the mat. The player must not purposely move the mat after placing the ball. If the player accidentally moves the ball while taking a Preferred Lie before making a *stroke*, the player must, without penalty, replace the ball. If the placed ball does not remain at rest, proceed under Rule 14.2(e).
- 8) If a ball strikes an overhead wire or its support pole, the *stroke* is cancelled. If the *stroke* was made from a *teeing area*, the player must place another ball into play (proceed under Rule 6.2), otherwise the player must *drop* another ball into play (proceed under Rules 16.1(b) and 14.3).
- 9) The minimum requirements for a mat to gain *Committee Approval* are;  
Flat, round, between 30cm and 31cm in diameter, maximum thickness 4cm. No wear, damage, marks or attached items that may assist with indicating line of play or effectively 'tee' the ball. Before the start of competition play any mat not purchased from AGC should be shown to the Handicaps and Competition Committee or Tournament Committee representative for approval.
- 10) If, when taking a Preferred Lie, and using the mat, a player places the ball within one ball's width of the edge of the mat, the player must, without moving the mat and without penalty, lift and replace the ball not within one ball's width of the edge of the mat.
- 11) In any *area*, if any ball comes to rest on a mat, the mat is deemed to be a *movable obstruction* which may be removed. Within the *teeing area*, the player may also proceed as Rule 6.2.
- 12) If a player is taking a Preferred Lie on the Fairway and the ball will not remain at rest on the mat when placed, and when the nearest place where the ball will remain at rest is off the Fairway then, in those circumstances, the mat can still be used.
- 13) If the ball comes to rest touching either a) and old Fairway Line that is still visible or b) the latest Fairway Line but where this is inaccurately placed or c) in a position where the Fairway Line is normally present but is absent, the ball is on the Fairway. If the ball is touching a piece of Fairway Line marking material that is itself not touching the Fairway Line then the ball is NOT on the Fairway.



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- 14) Compacted sand/rock, ruts or other damage caused by vehicles, sink-holes or damage caused by water drainage, or run-off, and deep, thin absent sand are *course conditions* defined as NOT *abnormal*. Free relief is not available for these conditions.
- 15) A partially buried stone (that is not a path or *out of bounds* marker stone) is considered *solidly imbedded* if it can't be lifted by use of the thumb and forefinger of one hand.
- 16) There is no relief for an *Embedded Ball* throughout the *General Area*. The exception is if a ball is *embedded* in its own pitch mark within any cold-patched or oiled surface bordering the *bunkers* or *putting greens* when free relief MUST be taken under 16.3b and 14.3.

## b. BUNKERS AND PENALTY AREAS

- 17) Sand filled depressions within a fairway are designated as *bunkers*. Cold-patched or oiled areas bordering a *bunker* are not part of the *bunker*. The depressions on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, are intended as water hazards and are indicated by yellow posts but DEFINED by the depression where the water would be. These depressions on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> are designated as *penalty areas* and *no play zones*. The player must lift a ball that is in any of these areas under penalty of one *stroke* and then *drop* the ball in the defined Dropping Zone (proceed under Rule 14.3, reading "Relief Area" as "Dropping Zone").

## c. PUTTING GREENS

- 18) *Putting greens* are defined by the putting surface sand that has been swept or, if sand is absent, the area of the putting surface that normally has swept sand. The player (or caddie) must not remove sand from the putting green.
- 19) If the player wishes to repair damage to the putting green, the player may smooth the surface by using the putter head lightly across the line of play. Continuous or excessive smoothing is not allowed and where the player wishes such smoothing, the groundsman (or the player, if the groundsman is unavailable) must use the brush provided.
- 20) If the player's *stance* or swing is restricted on the *putting green*, the player may lift and place the ball at the *nearest point of complete relief*, no nearer the hole.
- 21) In addition to the marking method described in the Rule 14.1, the player may use the putter head or a finger on the *putting green* (or a *tee* when not on the *putting green*) to scratch a short line(s) that will enable the ball to be repositioned accurately. The player must ensure that the direction of the line(s) does not indicate *line of play* and that the method of scratching minimizes testing of the surface.
- 22) If the ball is lying on swept putting surface sand and the player knows or is virtually certain that the location of this sand is outside the normal boundary of the *putting green*, the ball is NOT on the *putting green*.
- 23) Sweeping within 3m of the hole must be done across the *line of play*. After marking then lifting the ball, the player may smooth the area in the balls marked position. The player must use the putter head lightly across the *line of play*, smoothing only up to one ball's width from the balls marked position on the *line of play*. There is no penalty if these requirements are not met, however, an *opponent* or a fellow-competitor may request that the player repeats the sweeping and/or smoothing.
- 24) If a player wishes to sweep the *putting green* but an *opponent* or a fellow-competitor wishes the player not to perform sweeping as it will unavoidably mean sweeping across the *opponents* or fellow-competitors *line of play*, the player whose ball is furthest from the hole has sweeping-decision priority

## d. OUT OF BOUNDS

- 25) The following areas are *out of bounds*:
  - a) Around the Clubhouse and towards the 1<sup>st</sup> fairway, defined by a white line.
  - b) To the left of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, and to the right of 10<sup>th</sup> *teeing area* and Fairway, defined by white posts
  - c) To the left of the 5<sup>th</sup>, to the right of the 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, defined by white posts. Posts positioned at right angles to the first/last posts define the boundary start/end, by taking line of sight between and beyond these posts indefinitely
  - d) Around the graveyard on the 15<sup>th</sup>, defined by a white line.

**PENALTY FOR BREACH OF ANY LOCAL RULE**  
(Unless stated otherwise) **GENERAL PENALTY**