**Local Rules**

*These Local Rules replace any Local Rules previously published by Dartford Golf Club (e.g. on the club’s previous score cards or notice board). The rule references below are taken directly from the R&A and can be found on the following link* ‘[Rules Hub (randa.org)](https://www.randa.org/rules/rules-hub)’

1. For the purposes of **Rule 1.3 a**, the Terms of the Competition shall include the Specific Competition Conditions, the General Competition Conditions of Dartford Golf Club **(DGC**), DGC’s Code of Conduct, Pace of Play & Suspension of Play Policies each of which are deemed to be incorporated into these Local Rules.
2. **Out of Bounds (Rule 18.2)**

a) The course-side edge of any wall, fence, hedge or line of white stakes defines the boundary of the course.

b) On or beyond any white line defining the boundary of the course including, in either case, the edge of any internal out of bounds.

c) In or beyond the ditch to the right of the 5th hole.

d) On or beyond the path at the rear of the 18th green.

e) On or beyond the course-side kerb bordering the footpath to the 1st tee.

**3. Penalty Areas (Rule 17)**

All penalty areas are Red Penalty Areas from which relief may be taken under **Rule 17**. The edges of the penalty areas are defined as follows:

a) where stakes and lines are used, the edge of the penalty area is the course side edge of the line and the stakes are solely for visibility to players.

b) where stakes alone are used, the edge of the penalty area is defined by the line between the course side edge of the stakes at ground level and the stakes themselves are in the penalty area.

c) where there are no stakes or lines, the edge of the penalty area is, on both sides, the natural margin of the penalty area concerned.

**4. Ground Under Repair (Rule 16.1) – PLAYERS *MUST* TAKE RELIEF FROM GUR**

a) Any area encircled by a blue line.

b) Any area of damaged ground in the general area that is considered by an appointed referee to be an abnormal course condition.

**5. Integral Parts of the Course**

The wooden sleepers to the rear of the 5th & 11th teeing grounds are an integral part of the course. The ball must be played as it lies or declared unplayable (**Rule 19**).

**6. Young Trees** identified by being staked (whether attached or not) or plastic protected are no play zones:

a) If a player's ball lies anywhere on the course other than in a penalty area and it lies on or touches such a tree or such a tree interferes with the player's stance or area of intended swing, the player must take relief under **Rule 16.1f**.

b) If the ball lies in a penalty area, and interference to the player's stance or area of intended swing exists from such a tree, the player must take relief either with penalty under **Rule 17.1e** or with free relief under Rule **17.1e(2)**.

**7. Immovable Obstructions (Rule 16.1) include:**

a) All artificially surfaced roads, paths and winter tees on the course, including those covered with wood chips and areas where the artificial surfacing material has been transferred. All **other** paths and tracks are integral parts of the course.

b) White lined areas adjoining any immovable obstruction are part of the obstruction and not ground under repair.

c) Stone-filled drainage ditches or channels.

d) Sleepers or wooden boards within bunkers.

**7.1** Relief from interference by an immovable obstruction may be taken under **Rule 16.1**.

**7.2** The player also has the option to take relief when such immovable obstructions are close to the putting green and on the line of play as follows:

Ball in General Area. The player may take relief under **Rule 16.1b** if an immovable obstruction is on the line of play within two club-lengths of the putting green and within two club-lengths of the ball. Exception - there is no relief under this Local Rule 7.2 if the player chooses a line of play that is clearly unreasonable.

**8. Dropping Zones** are denoted by a White Stake with 2 black bands. The ball must be dropped & remain within 1 club length of the stake. The stake is a moveable obstruction but MUST be replaced after playing the stroke if moved.

**8.1 Dropping Zones (under penalty)**

A ball coming to rest:

a) Beyond the footpath between the 1st green and 4th tee

b) Beyond the footpath between the 4th green and 5th tee

c) In the hedges at the rear of the 1st & 5th holes

d) Against the chain link fence to the right of the 1st green

e) Against the iron railings to the right of the 5th green

may be:

1. played as it lies, or
2. deemed unplayable **(Rule 19)**, or
3. as an additional option picked & dropped in the nearest dropping zone under penalty of 1 stroke.

**8.2. Dropping Zones (without penalty)**

A ball coming to rest on the path behind the 8th green & 14th tee or if that path interferes with play may be:

1. played as it lies, or
2. relief taken under **Rule 16.1**, or
3. as an additional option picked & dropped in the nearest dropping zone without penalty.

**9. Aeration Holes on the Putting Green**

If the players ball lies in or touches an aeration hole on the putting green the player may take relief under **Rule 16.1d**. But interference does not exist if the aeration hole only interferes with the player’s stance or line of play.

**10. Wrong Green (Rule 13.1f)** For the purposes of this Rule only, Wrong Green includes the fringe of the green. This means that the nearest point of complete relief must avoid interference from both the green and it’s fringe.

**11. Tree Roots**

If the player’s ball in the General Area lying on grass cut to fairway height or less has interference from tree roots, free relief is available under **Rule 16.1b**. However, interference does not exist if the tree roots only interfere with a player’s stance.

**12. Suspension of Play** Players must comply with DGC’s Suspension of Play Policy.

***The Penalty for breach of a Local Rule (unless otherwise specified) is the General Penalty (Match play – loss of hole, Stroke play – 2 strokes).***