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HANDICAPPING PURPOSES ACCEPTABILITY – RULES OF GOLF – COVID 19

In addition to the “*Plano de Reabertura de Instalações de Golfe – Golf Infrastructures Opening Plan*” (01/05/202), the Portuguese Golf Federation issues the following guidelines clarifying the acceptability for handicapping purposes, in Portugal, of rounds played according with the instructions of that Plan.

The recommendations are in line with the R&A guidelines for the Rules of Golf, under conditions of prevention of COVID-19, and are in accordance with EGA – European Golf Association recommendations, for scores acceptable for handicapping purposes.

For easier reading, the items from the document “*Plano de Reabertura de Instalações de Golfe – Golf Infrastructures Opening Plan*”, are copied here in italic, even though the complete reading is recommended.

GUIDELINES:

Scoring in Stroke Play (reference to Rule 3.3b of the Rules of Golf)

- *Scorecards can be returned to the Committee by electronic means (for example, taking a photo or using an app);*
- *The player should not exchange scorecards with other players or physically check another player’s scorecard.*

The rounds can be acceptable for handicapping purposes.

The submission of scores acceptable for handicapping purposes is done through Datagolf and myFPG.

Flagsticks

- *The Committee may decide to remove all flagsticks from the golf course;*
- *The player should not remove or touch the flagstick;*

If the Technical Committee decides to leave the flagsticks in the course, it can implement a local rule penalizing a player for removing the flag.

The rounds can be acceptable for handicapping purposes.

Holes

- *Holes should have reduced depth;*
- *Rounds can be acceptable for handicapping purposes if at least a part of the ball is below the surface of the putting green;*



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According to Rule 13.2c of the Rules of Golf (Full Edition) “If any part of the ball is in the hole below the surface of the putting green, the ball is treated as holed even if the entire ball is not below the surface.”.

Therefore, the player can safely pick up the ball and the rounds played with reduced depth on the hole, can be acceptable for handicapping purposes.

Example – Acceptable for Handicapping:



Bunkers

- *Remove rakes from all bunkers;*
- *Smooth bunkers with their feet or a club;*
- *For bunker play, no Local Rules can be applied that would modify the applicable Rules of Golf, such as relief from footprints;*

The rounds can be acceptable for handicapping purposes.

For all other conditions for rounds being acceptable for handicapping purposes please consult the Handicap System in place.

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