



## General Regulations & Conditions of the Federal Competitions 2010

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### 1. General Principles

#### 1.1. Organisation

Every Federal Competition falls under the responsibility of the R.B.G.F. even if the competition is organised by another authority (PGA of Belgium, AFG, VVG or hosting club). Every Federal Competition will be organised in accordance with the Rules of Golf as established and approved by the R & A Rules Limited.

#### 1.2. Eligibility

Federal Competitions are open to all amateur players in possession of a 2010 RBGF federal card, and for Belgian amateurs who are member of a foreign club, as well as for professional players, member of the PGA of Belgium, in case of a mixed event for amateurs and professionals.

The Royal Belgian Golf Federation declines all responsibility in case of a player's illness or accident during a Federal Competition. The player is responsible to ensure that there is no contraindication with regard to his health while playing golf during a competition.

All participants to a Federal Competition are expected to comply with the regulations and etiquette rules of the host club (dress code, access to and use of facilities).

#### 1.3. Registration Procedure

The participants must register via the website of the R.B.G.F. ([www.golfbelgium.be](http://www.golfbelgium.be)). Registration by telephone will not be accepted. Registration usually starts 6 weeks prior to the first day of the competition.

Each application received after the closing date will be put on a "late registration" waiting list, in order of application date and time. These players will be contacted prior to the competition as soon as a spot becomes available.

If the number of entries exceeds the number of available places in the competition, the players with the lowest exact handicap at the closing date take precedence. In case of equal handicaps, a ballot will be established.

#### 1.4. Draw

The draw will be published on the website of the R.B.G.F. ([www.golfbelgium.be](http://www.golfbelgium.be)) between six and three days prior to the first day of the competition. The Committee reserves the right to modify the draw at all times. Any modification will be published on the above mentioned website. It is the responsibility of the player to know his starting time, whether or not modified.



### **1.5. Withdrawal from participation**

The player has the obligation to inform the Committee of his withdrawal as soon as possible. If the player cannot provide a valid reason for his withdrawal, or in case the player does not inform the Committee at all, the sanction for a first offence will be an automatic suspension for the next two federal events for which the player would be eligible. The player and his home club will be informed in writing.

### **1.6. Discontinuation of play during a competition without good reason**

The same sanction applies as in 1.5.

### **1.7. Decisions of Ties in Stroke Play**

In all Federal Competitions of 36 or more holes, in the event of a tie for first place, the winner will be determined by a hole by hole play-off. The play-off will start as soon as practicable after the last players have finished their round. Play will be in groups of no more than 3 players. Groups and order of play will be determined by lot. If the play-off involves more than 2 players, those other than the winner will be deemed to have tied for 2nd place regardless of their scores in the play-off.

The Tournament Committee will decide the holes to be used for the play-off.

In competitions decided over 18 or fewer holes, ties will be decided by matching scorecards (last 18 holes, last 9, last 6, last 3, last hole). If this method does not produce an outcome, the ties will be decided by lot.

## **2. Tournament Committee**

The Tournament Committee is composed of at least three members who are appointed by the R.B.G.F.

The Tournament Committee has the task of:

- a) Supervising the competition and ensuring the smooth proceeding of the competition.
- b) Handling all questions for which no authorised committee exists.
- c) Applying the prescribed sanctions to teams or players who are infringing the General Regulations and Conditions of the Federal Competitions.
- d) Deciding on all other matters not covered by the current regulations.
- e) Informing the R.B.G.F. of every reprehensible fact committed by a player during competition.

All decisions taken by the Tournament Committee are final.

The R.B.G.F. Rules Committee will appoint the rules officials. A rules official will accompany the players or will be roving, apply the Rules of Golf and inform the Tournament Committee of the rulings made.

## **3. Conditions of Competition and Permanent Local Rules**

The "Local Rules and Conditions Hard Card" (see Appendix 1 below) forms an integral part of the present General Regulations and Conditions of Competition.

The "Hard Card" is separately available to all competitors during a Federal Competition.

Specific local rules and conditions may be established by the Rules Official in Charge of a Competition, under supervision of the Tournament Committee.



**4. Handicap and Age Conditions, Entry Fees, Format of Play and Course Setup**

The provisions relating to Handicap and Age Conditions, Entry Fees, Format of Play and Course Setup (see Appendix II below) form an integral part of the present Regulations and Conditions of Competition.

**5. Specific Conditions for the Junior Tour**

The Specific Conditions for the Junior Tour (see Appendix III below) form an integral part of the present Regulations and Conditions of Competition.

**6. Miscellaneous**

**6.1. Behaviour**

If, during a competition, a player shows undesirable behaviour towards his fellow-competitors, opponents, spectators, rules officials, members of the Tournament Committee, members or officials of the hosting club (e.g., throwing equipment or hitting with clubs, swearing etc.), he will receive an official warning. In case of repeated infringement, a sanction of suspension for the next competition or competitions may be imposed. The facts will be reported to the R.B.G.F.

Only the Tournament Committee is entitled to impose such a sanction. In extreme cases, the player may be disqualified from the competition under Rule 33-7.

**6.2. Spectators**

During the course of a competition, all spectators (parents, coaches, club officials, supporters, etc.) have to stay at a reasonable distance of the players playing on the course, i.e. a distance where it is practically impossible to give advice or interfere with play.

A breach of Rule 8-1 (advice) of the Rules of Golf will be penalised as prescribed by Rule 8.

**6.3. Home Club**

A player's "Home Club" is an Affiliated Club of which the player is a member; it is the "Handicapping Authority" for the player.

Note: If the player is a member of more than one Affiliated Club in Belgium, he shall nominate one as his Home Club.

A player is free to change his Home Club once per season at any times. However, he must notify his former Home Club and the Royal Belgian Golf Federation of his decision, which shall be final for the remainder of the season.



**Appendix I: 2010 Federal Competitions and International Matches  
Local Rules and Conditions Hard Card**

**I. LOCAL RULES**

The following Local Rules, together with any additions or amendments as published by the Royal Belgian Golf Federation at the golf course, will apply to all Competitions and international Matches run by the Royal Belgian Golf Federation.

The Local Rules on the host club score card do not apply.

**1. Out of Bounds (Rule 27-1)**

- a) Beyond any wall, public road, fence or line of white stakes defining the boundary of the course.
- b) On or beyond any white line defining the boundary of the course.

A ball is out of bounds when all of it lies on or beyond this line. Where both stakes and lines are used to indicate out of bounds, the stakes identify out of bounds and the lines define out of bounds.

**2. Water Hazards (including Lateral Water Hazards) (Rule 26)**

Water hazards are defined by yellow stakes or yellow lines. Lateral water hazards are defined by red stakes or red lines.

Where both stakes and lines are used to indicate a water hazard, the stakes identify the hazard and the lines define the hazard margin.

**Note:** Dropping Zones for water hazards

Where there are dropping zones for water hazards, a ball may be played under Rule 26 or a ball may be dropped in the dropping zone nearest to where the original ball last crossed the margin of the hazard under penalty of one stroke.

If the ball is dropped in a dropping zone, the ball must not be re-dropped if it comes to rest within two club-lengths of the spot where it first struck a part of the course even though it may come to rest nearer the hole or outside the boundaries of the dropping zone.

**3. Abnormal Ground Conditions (Rule 25-1)**

Interference by a hole, cast or runway made by a burrowing animal, a reptile or a bird with a player's stance is deemed not to be, of itself, interference under Rule 25-1.

**4. Ground Under Repair (Rule 25-1)**

- a) Any area encircled by white lines.
- b) Any area encircled by blue lines or blue stakes: play prohibited
- c) Through the green, seams of cut turf (not the turf itself) are deemed to be ground under repair. However, interference by a seam with the player's stance is deemed not to be, of itself, interference under Rule 25-1. If the ball lies in or touches the seam or the seam interferes with the area of intended swing, relief is available under Rule 25-1. All seams within the cut turf area are considered the same seam.
- d) Gravel-filled drains, whether or not marked.

**5. Immovable Obstructions (Rule 24-2)**

- a) Federal sponsor boards.
- b) White lined areas adjoining any areas defined as immovable obstructions are to be regarded as part of the obstruction and not ground under repair.
- c) Staked trees and/or plantations surrounded by a plastic sleeve, plastic tube or wire mesh: If such a tree or plantation interferes with a player's stance or the area of his intended swing, the ball must be lifted, without penalty, and dropped in accordance with the procedure prescribed in Rule 24-2b (Immovable Obstruction). If the ball lies in a water hazard, the player must lift and drop the ball in accordance with Rule 24-b(i), except that the nearest point of relief must be in the water hazard and the ball must be dropped in the water



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hazard or the player may proceed under Rule 26. The ball may be cleaned when lifted under this Local Rule.

Exception: A player may not obtain relief under this Local Rule if (a) it is clearly unreasonable for him to make a stroke because of interference by anything other than the tree or plantation or (b) interference by the tree or the plantation would occur only through use of an unnecessarily abnormal stance, swing or direction of play.

d) Landscaped garden areas surrounded by an obstruction are part of the obstruction.

### 6. Stones in Bunkers

Stones in Bunkers are movable obstructions (Rule 24-1 applies).

### 7. Permanently Elevated Power Lines and Cables

If a ball strikes such a line or cable, the stroke must be cancelled and replayed, without penalty (see Rule 20-5). If the ball is not immediately recoverable another ball may be substituted.

### 8. Embedded Ball Through the Green.

Through the green, a ball that is embedded in its own pith-mark in the ground may be lifted, without penalty, cleaned and dropped as near as possible to where it lay but not nearer the hole. The ball when dropped must first strike a part of the course through the green.

Exceptions:

- A player may not take relief under this Local Rule if the ball is embedded in sand in an area that is not closely mown
- A player may not obtain relief under this Local if it is clearly unreasonable for him to make a stroke because of interference by anything other than the condition covered by this Local Rule.

#### PENALTY FOR BREACH OF LOCAL RULES:

Match Play - Loss of hole; Stroke Play - Two strokes

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## II. CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION

The following Conditions, together with any additions or amendments as published by the Royal Belgian Golf Federation at the golf course will apply under Rule 33-1 to all Federal Competitions and International Matches run by the Royal Belgian Golf Federation.

### 1. Eligibility

Players must meet the eligibility provisions established in the entry conditions for the specific competition.

### 2. The Ball (Note to Rule 5-1)

The ball the player uses must be named on the current List of Conforming Golf Balls issued by the R&A.

An updated List of Conforming Golf Balls is available on the R&A's website ([www.randa.org](http://www.randa.org)).

### 3. Driving Clubs

Any driver the player carries must have a clubhead, identified by model and loft, that is named on the current List of Conforming Driver Heads issued by the R&A.

Exception: A driver with a clubhead that was manufactured prior to 1999 is exempt from this condition.

#### PENALTY FOR CARRYING, BUT NOT MAKING STROKE WITH, CLUB OR CLUBS IN BREACH OF CONDITION:

**Match play** - At the conclusion of the hole at which the breach is discovered, the state of the match is adjusted by deducting one hole for each hole at which a breach occurred; maximum deduction per round - Two holes.



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**Stroke play** - Two strokes for each hole at which any breach occurred; maximum penalty per round - Four strokes.

**Match or stroke play** - In the event of a breach between the play of two holes, the penalty applies to the next hole.

Any club or clubs carried in breach of this condition must be declared out of play by the player to his opponent in match play or his marker or a fellow-competitor in stroke play immediately upon discovery that a breach has occurred. If the player fails to do so, he is disqualified.

### **PENALTY FOR MAKING STROKE WITH CLUB IN BREACH OF CONDITION: Disqualification.**

#### **4. Suspension of Play due to a Dangerous Situation (Note to Rule 6-8b)**

When play is suspended by the Committee for a dangerous situation, if the players in a match or group are between the play of two holes, they must not resume play until the Committee has ordered a resumption of play. If they are in the process of playing a hole, they must discontinue play immediately and not resume play until the Committee has ordered a resumption of play. If a player fails to discontinue play immediately, he is disqualified, unless circumstances warrant waiving the penalty as provided in Rule 33-7.

The following signals for suspending play are used:

Discontinue Play Immediately:	one prolonged note of siren
Discontinue Play:	three consecutive notes of siren, repeated
Resume Play:	two short notes of siren, repeated

### **PENALTY FOR BREACH OF CONDITIONS 2 - 3 - 4: Disqualification**

#### **5. Use of mobile phone**

Use of a mobile phone by a player or caddie on the golf course is not recommended. However, in case of emergency or danger (for medical reasons etc.) or to call the tournament office, a mobile phone may exceptionally be used. In any case a mobile phone should be switched off in order to avoid distracting the other players.

1. use of a mobile phone to ask for or give advice in breach of Rule 8-1: disqualification (R14-3)
2. use of a mobile phone as authorised by the rules but distracting other players:
  - a. first offence: the player is guilty of a breach of etiquette and should switch off his mobile phone.
  - b. subsequent offence: the player is guilty of a serious breach of etiquette and the committee may impose a penalty of disqualification under rule 33-7.

#### **6. Practice between holes in Stroke Play (Note 2 to Rule 7)**

Between the play of two holes, a player must not make any practice stroke on or near the putting green of the hole last played and must not test the surface of the putting green of the hole last played by rolling a ball.

**PENALTY FOR BREACH OF CONDITION:** Two strokes at the next hole.

In the case of a breach at the last hole of the stipulated round, the player incurs the penalty at that hole.

#### **7. Time of Starting (Note to Rule 6-3)**

If the player arrives at his starting point, ready to play, within five minutes after his starting time, in the absence of circumstances that warrant waiving the penalty of disqualification as provided in Rule 33-7, the penalty for failure to start on time is loss of the first hole to be played in match play or two strokes in stroke play. Penalty for lateness beyond five minutes is disqualification.



## 8. Transportation

Players must not ride on any form of transportation during a stipulated round unless authorised by the Committee. [Example: when a specific situation arises, in order to save time, a committee member or rules official may allow a player to ride with him, or another person, in a golf cart, not for actual play of the stipulated round, but to and from the place where a previous stroke was made (e.g., lost ball), to go to a spot where a ruling occurred, to seek shelter in case of a thunderstorm, etc. The player may not drive the golf cart himself.]

### PENALTY FOR BREACH OF CONDITION:

**Match play** - At the conclusion of the hole at which the breach is discovered, the state of the match is adjusted by deducting one hole for each hole at which a breach occurred; maximum deduction per round - Two holes.

**Stroke play** - Two strokes for each hole at which any breach occurred; maximum penalty per round - Four strokes.

**Match or stroke play** - In the event of a breach between the play of two holes, the penalty applies to the next hole. Use of any unauthorised form of transportation must be discontinued immediately upon discovery that a breach has occurred. Otherwise, the player is disqualified.”

## 9. Pace of Play (Note to Rule 6-7)

### a) Time Allowed:

Each hole has been given a maximum completion time based upon the length and difficulty of the hole as well as upon the walking distance between the holes. The maximum time allotted for the completion of 18 holes will be available prior to play. As an average rule the Royal Belgian Golf Federation applies the following maximum time allotted on a par-72 course:

- Groups of 2 players: 3h36' (average 12' per hole)
- Groups of 3 players: 4h12' (average 14' per hole)
- Groups of 4 players: 4h30' (average 15' per hole)

### b) Definition of Out of Position:

The first group and any group after a starter's gap will be considered to be “out of position” if, at any time during the round, the group's cumulative time exceeds the time allowed for the number of holes completed. Any following group will be considered “out of position” if it is more than the starting interval behind the group in front and has exceeded the time allowed for the number of holes played.

### c) Procedure when group is Out of Position:

1. Rules Officials will monitor pace of play and make a decision whether a group that is “out of position” should be timed. An assessment of whether there are any recent mitigating circumstances, e.g. a lengthy ruling, lost ball, unplayable ball, etc. will be made.

If a decision is taken to time the players, **each player** in the group will be subject to individual timing and a Rules Official will advise each player that they are “out of position” and they are being timed.

The maximum time allocated per shot is 40 seconds. 10 extra seconds are allowed for the first player to play:

- a) on a par 3 hole;
- b) his approach shot; and
- c) a chip or putt.

The timing will start when a player has had sufficient time to reach his ball, it is his turn to play and he is able to play without interference or distraction.

On the putting green, timing will start when the player has had a reasonable amount of time to lift, clean and replace his ball, repair ball marks and clear loose impediments on his line of putt. Time spent looking at the line from beyond the hole and/or behind the ball will count as part of the time taken for the next stroke.



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2. Timing ceases when a group is back in position and players will be advised accordingly.

### PENALTY FOR BREACH OF CONDITION:

1 bad time	Player will be warned by the Rules Official and told that if he has a further bad time he will be penalised.	
	<u>Stroke Play</u>	<u>Match Play</u>
2 bad times	Penalty of One stroke	Loss of Hole
3 bad times	Further Penalty of Two strokes	Final Warning
4 bad times	Disqualification	Disqualification

d) **Procedure When Again Out of Position During Same Round:**

If a group is “out of position” more than once during a round, the above procedure will apply on each occasion. Bad times and the application of penalties in the same round will be carried forward until the round is completed. A player will not be penalised if he has a second bad time before being advised of his earlier bad time.

**10. Restriction to who may serve as a Caddie (Note to Rule 6-4)**

- A player is prohibited from having a professional golfer serve as his caddie during the stipulated round.
- On the Junior Tour, a player is prohibited from having a person who is born in 1991 and before, serve as his caddie during the stipulated round.

### PENALTY FOR BREACH OF CONDITION:

**Match play** - At the conclusion of the hole at which the breach is discovered, the state of the match is adjusted by deducting one hole for each hole at which a breach occurred; maximum deduction per round - Two holes.

**Stroke play** - Two strokes for each hole at which any breach occurred; maximum penalty per round - Four strokes.

**Match or stroke play** - In the event of a breach between the play of two holes, the penalty applies to the next hole. A player having a caddie in breach of this condition must immediately upon discovery that a breach has occurred ensure that he conforms with this condition for the remainder of the stipulated round. Otherwise, the player is disqualified.

**11. Returning a Score Card**

A player is deemed to have returned his scorecard once he has handed over his card to an official in the Tournament Office and he has left the “Recording Area”.

**12. Close of a Competition**

When the final results sheet is placed on the official notice board, the result of the competition is deemed to have been officially announced.



Appendix II

**Handicap and Age Conditions, Format of Play, Entry Fees and Course Setup**

**1. Competition Schedule**

The Federal Competition Schedule is available on the website [www.golfbelgium.be](http://www.golfbelgium.be)

**2. Handicap and Age Conditions**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Max. Hcp</b>	<b>Age Limit</b>
Federal Tour Men	4.4	Born in 1991 and before
Federal Tour Ladies	7.4	Born in 1991 and before
Federal Tour Boys U-18	6.4	Born in 1992 and after
Federal Tour Girls U-18	9.4	Born in 1992 and after
Junior Tour Boys U-18	10.4	Born in 1992 and 1993
Junior Tour Girls U-18	18.4	Born in 1992 and 1993
Junior Tour Boys U-16	14.4	Born in 1994 and 1995
Junior Tour Girls U-16	22.4	Born in 1994 and 1995
Junior Tour Boys U-14	20.4	Born in 1996 and after
Junior Tour Girls U-14	28.4	Born in 1996 and after
National Junior Ch'ship Boys U-12	28.4	Born in 1998 and after
National Junior Ch'ship Girls U-12	32.4	Born in 1998 and after
Young Adults Men	8.4	Born before 1992 and after 1975
Young Adults Ladies	12.4	Born before 1992 and after 1975
Mid-Amateur Men	12.4	Born in 1975 and before
Mid-Amateur Ladies	14.4	Born in 1975 and before
Senior Men	12.4	Born in 1955 and before
Senior Ladies	16.4	Born in 1960 and before
Kids Tour Boys Preminimes	28.4	Born in 1998 and 1999
Kids Tour Girls Preminimes	32.4	Born in 1998 and 1999
Kids Tour Other Categories	See Special Regulations Kids Tour	



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### 3. Format of Play

Category	Nr. Of Holes	Format of Play
Senior Tour	18 or 36	Single Stroke Play
Mid-Amateur Tour	18 or 36	Single Stroke Play
Federal Tour	36, 54 or 72	Single Stroke Play
Junior Tour	36 or 72	Single Stroke Play
Kids Tour Preminimes	18	Single Stroke Play
Kids Tour Other Categories	See Special Regulations Kids Tour	

### 4. Entry Fee

Note: every eligible player who has registered for a Federal Competition may practise once on the competition course at a preferential green-fee rate (see table below).

The player must reserve a tee-time in accordance with the availability of the hosting club and has to show his Federal Card for 2010.

Category	Entry Fee	Practice Fee
Senior Tour 1 day	€ 35,-	€ 25,-
Senior Tour 2 days	€ 45,-	€ 25,-
Mid-Amateur Tour 1 day	€ 35,-	€ 25,-
Mid-Amateur Tour 2 days	€ 45,-	€ 25,-
Federal Tour (amateur) 2 days	€ 35,-	€ 25,-
Federal Tour (amateur) 3 days	€ 45,-	€ 25,-
Federal Tour (amateur) 4 days	€ 50,-	€ 25,-
Junior Tour 2 days	€ 25,-	€ 15,-
Junior Tour 4 days	€ 35,-	€ 15,-
Kids Tour 1 day	€ 10,-	€ 10,-



**Appendix III**

**Specific Conditions for the Junior Tour**

**1. Restriction as to who may serve as a Caddie (Note to Rule 6-4)**

A player is prohibited from having a person who is born in 1991 and before, serve as his caddie during the stipulated round.

**PENALTY FOR BREACH OF CONDITION:**

**Match play:** At the conclusion of the hole at which the breach is discovered, the state of the match is adjusted by deducting one hole for each hole at which a breach occurred; maximum deduction per round - Two holes.

**Stroke play:** Two strokes for each hole at which any breach occurred; maximum penalty per round - Four strokes.

**Match or stroke play:** In the event of a breach between the play of two holes, the penalty applies to the next hole. A player having a caddie in breach of this condition must immediately upon discovery that a breach has occurred ensure that he conforms with this condition for the remainder of the stipulated round. Otherwise, the player is disqualified.

**2. Choice of Higher Category - Exception**

If a player, who is eligible to participate in the U-14 Category, wishes to play in a higher category (U-16 or U-18) during the 2010 season, he/she must apply for this exception in writing, latest on **1st March 2010**, to the Royal Belgian Golf Federation.

**3. Smoking Prohibition**

No Competitor shall smoke on the course during a Stipulated Round.

**PENALTY FOR BREACH OF CONDITION:**

Suspension for the next competition or competitions

**4. Draw and Cut Regulations**

**4.1. Order of Play**

Day 1	Day 2 after cut in descending order of results
1. Girls U-18	1. Boys U-14 followed by Girls U-14
2. Boys U-18	2. Girls U-16 followed by Boys U-16
3. Boys U-16	3. Boys U-18 followed by Girls U-18
4. Girls U-16	4. Top 6 Boys U-14 followed by Top 3 Girls U-14
5. Girls U-14	5. Top 6 Boys U-16 followed by Top 3 Girls U-16
6. Boys U-14	6. Top 6 Boys U-18 followed by Top 3 Girls U-18

**4.2. Cut Table:**

Boys	Nr. of Participants in Round 1	Cut
	> 18	18 + ties
	16-17-18	15 + ties
	13-14-15	12 + ties
	10-11-12	9 + ties
	7-8-9	6 + ties
Girls	Nr. of Participants in Round 1	Cut
	> 12	12 + ties
	10-11-12	9 + ties
	7-8-9	6 + ties
	3-4-5-6	3 + ties

**5. Recommended Prize Table for each category (minimum 3 players)**

Gross Prize: **Winner**  
 Gross Prize: **Runner-Up**  
 Net Prize: **1st Net Prize**