Golf Moldova

Local rules: Dream Valley Golf & Country Club

Local rules for competitions at Dream Valley Golf & Country Club. They apply in addition to the official R&A / USGA Rules of Golf (2023 Edition).

Artificial surfaces and constructions

- All artificial surfaces and permanent structures (paths, terraces, robot charging stations, curbs, decorative stones) are considered Immovable Obstructions. A player is entitled to free relief under Rule 16.1 of the R&A and USGA Rules of Golf.
- Free drop procedure, if the ball lies on or is interfered with by an obstruction: (1) determine the nearest point of complete relief (not nearer the hole); (2) measure one club-length (excluding driver and putter) and mark the relief area; (3) drop the ball from knee height within the relief area (not nearer the hole).
- (4) If the ball rolls outside the relief area, repeat the drop without penalty. (5) After two incorrect drops, place the ball by hand where it first touched the ground inside the relief area.
- Playing from paths, terraces, charging areas and other artificial surfaces is prohibited.

Out of bounds

- Out of bounds are marked by white stakes and natural barriers (fence, road, lake). The boundary is defined by the inner line of the stakes facing the course. A ball is out of bounds when its entire body lies beyond this line.
- If a ball crosses the boundary, the player takes one penalty stroke and plays again from the previous spot (Rule 18.2).
- To speed up play, the club allows an alternative drop option within two club-lengths from the point where the ball went out of bounds, with two penalty strokes.

Artificial greens

- All surfaces made of artificial turf are considered part of the green. Collars (natural fringe areas) are part of the general area.
- The player should use only putter at these areas. Penalty: two strokes.

Water and drainage

- All areas marked with red stakes are Penalty Areas. Play is allowed only from outside these zones.

Fairway bunkers 1, 2 and 5

- If water is present after rain or irrigation, such areas are treated as Temporary Water. Free relief is permitted under Rule 16.1.

Ground under repair (GUR)

- Planted areas near fairways 4 and 5; tee box No. 3 (under restoration); any area marked with red tape.
- Playing from these zones is prohibited. The player must take free relief under Rule 16.1.

Winter rules

- During wet or cold conditions, “Preferred Lies” (Clean and Place) applies on fairways: the player should mark the ball with the tee, and after may lift, clean and place the ball within 15 cm (6 inches) of its original spot, not nearer the hole and within the same area of the course. This rule applies only when declared by the club administration.

Animal damage and tracks

- If a ball lies in a hoof print, paw mark, burrow or similar animal damage, the player is entitled to free relief under Rule 16.1.

Immovable objects on the course

- Marking lines, distance plates, benches, bins, signs and other permanent elements are Immovable Obstructions. Relief as described above.

Etiquette and pace of play

- Players must respect the priority of the group ahead and maintain pace of play.
- Maximum search time for a lost ball: 3 minutes (Rule 18.2a).
- When a ball is in a Penalty Area, the player must either play from inside or take relief with one penalty stroke.
- Practice swings must not damage turf or greens.
- Tournament players must maintain proper etiquette and respect for others.

Approved by the Administration of Dream Valley Golf & Country Club. Check with the club for the current version.