IBGA Competition Guidance

Effective from: June 2026

For Competition Committees

1. Visit the R&A website and read the section on Committee Procedures. This contains practical information for running golf competitions at all levels.
   Link as at January 2026. www.randa.org/rog/committee-procedures

   Useful link to R&A definitions. www.randa.org/rog/definitions

2. For medal competitions: If a ball is lost or out of bounds, players shall be required to take stroke-and-distance relief. (See Rule 18.2.)

   For stableford competitions: The committee, if it deems appropriate, may implement a local rule providing an alternative to stroke-and-distance relief in the event of a ball being lost or out of bounds.

3. Ensure that all penalty areas, GUR, out of bounds, etc., are clearly demarcated.

4. The IBGA countback rules (as found on the IBGA website – which are consistent with the countback rules recommended by the R&A/USGA) must be used to break any ties, unless the IBGA Board has approved a different form of tie break (such as a playoff) with the competition organisers in advance. The organisers would need to fully specify how such a system is to operate and, if approved, communicate this to all competitors (at least one month prior to the competition).

5. (a) Check the blackout glasses to be worn by all the B1 players before the start of each round (including any official practice round(s)), to make sure they do indeed completely block out all light and are not just dark sunglasses.

   (b) Ensure all B1 players are compliant with wearing blackout glasses at all times throughout the course of play (including during any official practice round(s)). (Removing blackout glasses occasionally to wipe one's face is permitted.)

For Players and their Aides (guides/coaches)

Requirements:

1. In all IBGA-sponsored events the R&A Rules of Golf will be used. The previous modified rules for golfers with disabilities (with effect from January 2023) form part of the Rules of Golf (Section 25 – Modifications for Players with Disabilities).

   Additionally:

   (a) Players may not drive golf buggies.
   Penalty for breach: Possible disqualification

   (b) All B1 players must wear blackout glasses at all times throughout the course of play (including during any official practice round(s)).
   Penalty for breach: Possible disqualification.

2. Visually impaired golfers shall be allowed to make use of hand-held visual aids, such as monoculars, binoculars, or distance-measuring devices with magnification, prior to making a stroke. Magnification devices built into frames, other than those used exclusively for reading, may not be used.

3. Only use recognised golf equipment, which includes grips.

4. Play the ball as it lies unless permitted otherwise by the Rules.

5. A club (or other equipment) may be laid on the ground to assist a player in aiming or taking a stance, but any such object placed on the ground for this purpose must be removed prior to the stroke. (See Rule 25.2c.)
   Note that this is not allowed on the putting green.

6. On the green, the aide is not permitted to indicate the line of putt while the stroke is being played (e.g. by standing on the intended line of play). The aide may not touch or tap the hole, although rattling the flagstick before the stroke is played is permitted.

7. Players are allowed to make use of both a caddie and an aide. If a player has both then the aide may only touch the player's clubs when helping align the player before making a stroke, or in helping the player as a courtesy as provided in the definition of caddie. (See Rule 25.2e.)

8. Players may ground their club in a bunker preparatory to the stroke. (See Rule 25.2f.)

9. The player's ball should be marked prior to it being lifted for any purpose. The aide/ caddie or player may do this. (See Rule 25.2g.)

10. When a ball is to be dropped, placed or replaced the player may authorise any other person (e.g. their aide) to do this on their behalf. (See Rule 25.2h.)

11. The aide may not touch the club during the stroke.

12. Count all shots and penalties on each hole, not forgetting to count air shots (missed balls).

13. After the round, ensure that the player and marker check and sign the scorecard.

Recommendations:

1. Players should be familiar with the Rules of Golf, Local Rules of the course and Competition Rules.

   Apps with the Rules (in several languages) can be accessed on the R&A website. (Link as at January 2026: https://www.randa.org/en/rules/rules-app)

2. Players should arrive at the tee at least 5 minutes before their start time and exchange scorecards with their playing partner(s).
   Players may be penalised or even disqualified if they are late.

3. Players should have a unique identifying mark on any golf ball used in the round. The golf ball with identification mark should be shown to playing partner(s) and their aides.

4. Keep up with the game in front and not just try to stay ahead of the game behind. Do not hesitate to let the game behind through if you have lost a ball or lost a hole on the match in front and those behind are waiting to play.

5. Agree and record the scores for each hole at the next tee. Do not discuss the score on the green and hold up the match behind. Check that the correct gross score for each hole is properly recorded on the scorecard.