



Effective 1 January 2023

**Additional Guidance on Model Local G-12:
Prohibiting Use of Materials to Help Read the Line of Play for Stroke from Putting Green**

When this Local Rule is in effect, a player cannot use any written, printed, electronic or digital materials to help with reading a line of play for any stroke to be made from the putting green. The following FAQs address how this Local Rule applies.

Q1. Are there times when a player may use a yardage book during their round?

A1. Yes. The application of this Local Rule is limited to using such a book (or any other materials including notes) to help determine a line of play when the ball is on the putting green.

A yardage book could be used in the following ways without penalty:

- To determine a carry yardage, yardage from the hole or from another object,
- To read notes relating to prevailing winds,
- To write notes related to their previous shot, how a ball reacted on the putting green, ideal layup yardage or other notes about how to play a hole or how they played the hole, and
- Refer back to other notes on how to play a hole, provided they are not used to determine a line of play for a ball on the putting green.

Q2. May a yardage book (or any other materials including notes) be used to determine a line of play for a ball lying off the putting green?

A2. Yes. A yardage book (or any other materials including notes) can be used to determine a line of play when making a stroke from anywhere on the course, except the putting green, even if the player is using a putter for that stroke.

Q3. If a player takes out a yardage book when their ball is on the putting green, are they in breach of MLR G-12?

A3. No. Taking out a yardage book when the ball is on the putting green is not, of itself, a breach of this MLR. For example, the player could take out a book to make a note related to the approach shot they made into the green.

The player would breach MLR G-12 only if the book (or any other materials including notes) is used to help determine their line of play when the ball is on the putting green.

Q4. Is the player in breach of the local rule if they believe their ball is not on the putting green and use a yardage book (or any other materials including notes) to help determine the line of play, only to discover their ball had come to rest on the putting green?

A4. Yes.

Q5. How do these restrictions apply to the player's caddie or an advice giver?

A5. A caddie or an advice giver is also not allowed to use a yardage book (or any other materials including notes) to help determine the line of play on for a stroke to be made from the putting green.



Q6. Do the size and scale limits for green-reading materials in Clarification 4.3a/1 apply when MLR G-12 is in effect?

A6. No. The size and scale limits for green-reading materials apply only when reading a line of play for a ball on the putting green. Under MLR G-12, no materials may be used to help with reading a line of play for a stroke to be made from the putting green. Therefore, the size and scale of any such materials is irrelevant when MLR G-12 is in effect.

Q7. May a player make notes relating to slopes and/or grain direction on their hole location sheets?

A7. The player may add this information on their hole location sheets, but they must not look at this information to help with reading a line of play for a stroke to be made from the putting green as that would be a breach of MLR G-12.

Q8. May a player use a distance-measuring device to check the length of their putt?

A8. Yes. As the distance-measuring device is being used to check the length of putt and is not being used to help the player read their line of play for a stroke to be made from the putting green, this is allowed.

Q9. In stroke play, a player looks at a book when their ball is on the putting green in breach of MLR G-12. They then putt, and before making their second putt, they look at a book again in breach of MLR G-12. What is the penalty if the player was not aware of the first breach?

A9. The player is disqualified. This is based on the player having had an intervening event (the completion of the first stroke) between breaches (see Rule 1.3c(4)).

Q10. May a player whose ball is on the putting green look at any materials on the way to the green to remind themselves of the general slopes of the green and direction of grain on the putting green.

A10. No. As the player is referencing the materials to help them with reading their line of play for a stroke to be made from the putting green, the player is in breach of MLR G-12. The player does not have to know the exact position of their ball on the putting green in order to get assistance with their line of play.