



Effective 1 January 2023  
(Updated 20 February 2023 with minor text changes)

**The questions and answers in this document relate to Clarification 4.3a/1 that limits the use of Green-Reading Materials.**

This document is not relevant when either MLR G-11 or MLR G-12 is in effect:

- If MLR G-11 is in effect, see the document titled, 'Additional Guidance on Model Local Rule G-11'.
- If MLR G-12 is in effect, no materials may be referenced to help read the line of play for a stroke to be made from the putting green. If a player uses material to help read their line of play for a stroke to be made from the putting green with MLR G-12 in effect, they are in breach of the Local Rule and it does not need to be decided whether the material met the limitations discussed below and in Clarification 4.3a/1. See the document titled, 'Additional Guidance on Model Local Rule G-12' for more information.

**1. When do the limitations on using green-reading materials apply?**

The Clarification limits the materials a player may use during a round to help with reading their line of play for any stroke made on the putting green so that a player's ability to read a green remains an essential part of the skill of putting. But the limitations in Clarification 4.3a/1 do not apply to any stroke that is made from off the putting green.

**2. Can a player use a yardage or green book that contains images that do not meet the "scale limit" or the book itself does not meet the "size limit" without breaching Rule 4.3?**

A player is not allowed to use a yardage or green book that does not meet both the scale and size limits to help read a line of play for a stroke to be made from the putting green.

However, the player can use such a book for other reasons without penalty (such as determining how far and where to hit an approach shot into a green, including determining general slopes on the putting green when playing such an approach shot, or determining a desired location on the putting green where the player wants to leave the ball for their next stroke).

**3. Are putting green images hand drawn by the player or caddie required to be recorded in a book or on paper that meets the "size limit" requirement of the clarification?**

Yes, any handwritten notes (including hand drawn images of putting greens) must be contained in a book or on paper that meet the size limit of 4 ¼ x 7 inches, regardless of the level of detail included.

**4. Are putting green images hand drawn by the player or caddie required to meet the "scale limit" requirement of the clarification?**

No, hand drawn images are not required to meet the scale limit. The only limitation on such handwritten notes is that they are recorded in a book or on paper that meets the size limit (see Question 3).

**5. May a player use an oversize image of a putting green map (for example, on an 8 ½ x 11" sheet of paper) to help determine the line of play for an approach shot?**

Yes, the limits apply only to strokes made on the putting green.

- 6. Are notes created with the help of a computer design program (such as computer aided design (CAD)) produced by a player or caddie considered “handwritten”?**

No. While CAD can be used to produce a putting green map so long as they meet the scale and size limits, the regulations on “handwritten” notes apply only to notes that are physically written or drawn by the player or the caddie.

- 7. May a player or caddie photocopy (or the like) handwritten notes from another player or caddie and use that photocopy to help determine the line of play on the putting green?**

No. Using photocopied notes to help determine the line of play on the putting green is the same as using the notes from another player or caddie, which is not allowed.

- 8. If one or more images in a book exceed the “scale limit” can the player use a photocopier as a means of reducing an image in order to meet the scale limit?**

Yes.

- 9. May a player use a book to determine the line of play for a stroke to be made from the putting green that has seventeen green images that meet the scale limit but one that does not?**

Yes, but the player would not be allowed to use the book to help determine the line of play for a stroke to be made from the putting green on the one hole that does not meet the scale limit.

The player would be allowed to use the other seventeen green images that meet the scale limit in any manner, including to help determine the line of play for a stroke to be made from the putting green.

- 10. May caddies exchange information and copy, by hand, each other’s notes before or between rounds?**

Yes. The limitation on handwritten notes is only that any hand drawn or written information about a putting green must be physically written by the player and/or their caddie. This does not limit how a player or caddie obtains the information, even if through copying, by hand, pre-produced materials or notes from another player or caddie.

- 11. If a player switches caddies during a round or a tournament, may the player and the new caddie use handwritten notes that were made by the previous caddie to help determine the line of play for a stroke to be made from the putting green?**

Yes. During a tournament, hand drawn or written information about a putting green may be used to read the line of play for a stroke to be made from the putting green if written by a caddie the player has previously had during the tournament. The ability to continue using these notes also includes situations where a caddie takes notes during practice rounds in the days leading up to the tournament, but the player begins the tournament with another caddie.

This permission does not extend to situations where the player or caddie are attempting to circumvent the limitation on handwritten notes.

- 12. May a coach or captain that has been assigned as an advice giver either put notes in a player’s book, or use their own book to show the player when giving advice?**

Yes. While the clarification states that any notes are limited to only the player or caddie, when an advice giver has been identified to the Committee for a given round, that advice giver’s book and their notes are treated in the same way as the player’s caddie’s notes.



**13. May a player use the notes from a partner or the partner's caddie in Foursomes or Four-ball competitions?**

Yes. While the Clarification states that any notes are limited to only the player or caddie, Rules 22.2 and 23.5a are clear in stating that a partner or the partner's caddie may provide guidance.

However, if the player plans to use that book in subsequent rounds or competitions at that course, any notes written by the partner or the partner's caddie in the player's book would not be allowed to be used in a future round to help the player determine the line of play on the putting green, unless the player had the same partner or partner's caddie for that round.

**Note:** Developers are encouraged to indicate on the cover or within a book's legend the scale of green images as well as the overall size of the book. For example:

Putting green images are scaled at 3/8" to 5 yards or less and the book's size is 6" x 4"