



Additional Guidance on Model Local Rule G-11: Restricting the Use of Green-Reading Materials

Model Local Rule G-11 allows a Committee to further restrict the use of green-reading materials by requiring that players are limited throughout their round to using only the yardage book that has been approved for use in the competition.

General:

- 1. Q.** Do the size and scale limits in Clarification 4.3a/1 apply when MLR G-11 is in effect?
A. Yes. The size of the Committee approved yardage book must not exceed 7" x 4.25" and the scale of the greens must not exceed 3/8" for every 5 yards.

Committee Approval Process:

- 2. Q.** May a Committee approve a yardage book that has already been produced?
A. Yes. While the Committee must approve the yardage book prior to the competition, if a yardage book meets the size and scale limits established in Clarification 4.3a/1 and contains the limited level of detail on the greens that satisfies the Committee, that yardage book may be approved for a future competition.
- 3. Q.** Is there a set level of green detail for the yardage books that a Committee may approve?
A. No. MLR G-11 does not establish specific parameters on the level of green detail, but to meet the purpose of MLR G-11 an approved book should only contain minimal detail (such as significant slopes, tiers or false edges that indicate sections of the green).
- 4. Q.** May a player create their own yardage book based on the Committee Approved Book, such as by copying the greens and creating the rest of the book based on their own preferences?
A. No. Under MLR G-11 the Committee Approved Book is the only book that may be used by a player during a round.
- 5. Q.** Do all hole-location sheets need to be approved?
A. A hole-location sheet must be approved if it contains any detail of the greens, even when the detail includes only a reproduction of a green's outline or minimal slopes. But it does not need to be approved if the information given relates only to the location of the hole and does not include any other detail specific to that green. For example, a sheet with generic circles with lines that only show how far from the front and the left or right edge of the green the hole is located does not need to be approved.

Handwritten Notes:

- 6. Q.** May a player use the green detail from another source to create handwritten notes in the Committee Approved Book or elsewhere for use during the round?
A. No. Handwritten notes must be based on the player's or caddie's experiences or observations of a ball rolling on a green, or through the player's or caddie's feel or general observations of the green.
- 7. Q.** During the round, may a player or caddie use information gathered by use of a level or some other device to create handwritten notes in the Committee Approved Book or elsewhere.
A. No. Handwritten notes must be based on the player's or caddie's experiences or observations of a ball rolling on a green, or through the player's or caddie's feel or general observations of the green.
- 8. Q.** During the round, may a player or caddie use material (whether printed or handwritten) to help read the line of play on the putting green that has not been approved but is generic and could apply to any green on the course.
A. No. Any other material that could help with reading the line of play on the putting green (whether a specific green or greens in general) is not allowed.
- 9. Q.** May a player or caddie include information seen on TV in their handwritten notes?
A. Yes. Handwritten notes may be based on experiences or observations of a ball rolling on a green, and this includes such observations from a TV broadcast. These notes must be kept in the Committee Approved Book, or on other approved maps of the course or approved hole-location sheets.

Switching Caddies and Partner's Notes:

- 10. Q.** If a player begins his or her round with caddie A, but then switches to caddie B during the round, may the player and caddie B use an Approved Yardage Book that contains handwritten notes produced by caddie A to help read the line of play on the putting green?
A. In the limited circumstances where a player changes caddies during a round (for example, if caddie A were to get sick), the player would be allowed to continue to use both caddie A's and caddie B's handwritten notes for the remainder of that round.
- 11. Q.** If a player switches caddies during 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 on the putting green?
A. Yes. During a tournament, handwritten notes that could help read the line of play on the putting green may be used by a player even if those notes were made 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. **Q.** May a player use handwritten notes that could help read the line of play on the putting green from a partner or the partner's caddie in Foursomes or Four-ball competitions?
- A.** Yes. While MLR G-11 restricts handwritten notes that could help read the line of play on the putting green to only those made by the player or the player's caddie, Rule 22.2 and 23.5a are clear in stating that a partner or the partner's caddie may provide guidance.

Application of Penalty:

13. **Q.** If a player gets the general penalty for a breach of Rule 4.3 and then breaches MLR G-11 in the same round, how is the penalty applied for the breach of the MLR?
- A.** While MLR G-11 uses the penalty statement from Rule 4.3, a breach of this MLR is independent from a breach of Rule 4.3. This means that a player who breaches Rule 4.3 and then breaches this MLR (or vice versa) in the same round gets two general penalties. Any subsequent breach of either Rule 4.3 or the MLR during the same round results in disqualification.