



# The Rebel Tour Rules

## PLAYING AND COMPETITION RULES

### The Rebel Tour Plate

The Rebel Tour Plate is awarded to the Champion Golfer (decided at the annual end of summer tour based at Victoria Golf Club) of the year. In 2008 despite many misgivings by the organizing committee it was agreed that Fitzpatrick and Dobbin could participate as a team. Clearly this represented a serious error in judgement by the committee and consequently similar aberrations in the normal operation of polite society will not be allowed again. The Champion Golfer will be decided on the best average score for all the rounds played. However, in equity it is recognised that some members will be freshness advantaged by playing a reduced schedule. Therefore, if some recalcitrant members do not complete the full schedule then a golfer who plays all rounds will be allowed to drop one round from the averaging calculations (the Fitzpatrick Fairness Exclusion Dispensation). If all members play all rounds, then all rounds will count. Results will be calculated to the first decimal place (Lawyers will just have to trust the engineers on this one – we just don't have time to explain it to make up for the inadequacies of their education). In the event of a tie, joint winners will be announced



The winner of the plate has their name engraved on the plate. Control of the engraving and location of the plate is the responsibility of John (Bandido) Fitzpatrick (if your permanent abode is more than 15 km from Kyle Bay then all the tour failures wish you luck in your attempts to wrest control of the plate from John). In addition, in past years, a magnificent trophy to be taken home and displayed to your adoring family was awarded to the Champion Golfer of the year. However, as the Tour Leader has lost interest in acquiring the trophy it will be presented to the Champion Golfer if the Tour Leader gets around to buying it. As the tour leader hasn't got around to organising a trophy since 2007 it is suggested that you don't get too excited about this.

Any other tours conducted throughout the years that have two or more Rebels participating may play for the honour of having the winners name engraved on the plate but carry no possession rights. Such tours are designated 'engrave but not hold' tours.

### The Leigh Brown Championship Trophy

In memory of our much missed long term Rebel Tour companion, The Leigh Brown Championship Trophy was first played for on the 2020 Melbourne Tour. The competition rules very much reflect, and attempt to correct, the travails Leigh (and



# The Rebel Tour Rules

other tourists) has had to shoulder over numerous domestic and international tours, namely that Bandido's handicap increases before the tour and invariably the competition is over well before the last round has commenced.

The Tour Leader will calculate achieved tour index using the World Handicapping System for all rounds on tour prior to the playing of the last round. The LRB Daily Handicap for each player for the Leigh Brown Championship Trophy will then be based on the RSGC White Tee figures (Par 72, Scratch 74, Slope 130). This winner of the Leigh Brown Championship Trophy will be the best score from the final round using the LRB Daily Handicap.

## **The Bill Kiely Scoring Excellence Trophy**

In memory of our much missed long term Rebel Tour American companion the Bill Kiely Scoring Excellence Trophy was instituted in 2020. After taking a conservative approach to the Rebel Tour Plate competition during his first three years on tour (1997, 1998 and 1999) Bill had discerned that the appropriate winning tactic was to start fast with some early big scores so as to demoralise the rest of the touring party and to the coast home to victory. He did this in 2000 becoming the first American Champion.

The winner of the Bill Kiely Scoring Excellence Trophy is the tourist who achieves the best stableford score from all rounds played on tour.

## **Course Rating (The Carter Amendment)**

It is recognised that the tour members are, increasingly, becoming eligible for Senior (and, in some cases Vintage) events. Therefore, the committee has agreed that we should choose tees that give most participants the opportunity to reach par four holes without having to always reach for their three woods and hope that they get a good kick off a sprinkler head. It is also recognised that most members have some difficulty in acclimatising to new courses. The benchmark for tee selection is the White Tees at Royal Sydney Golf Club (rating 74, slope 130). In the normal course of events the chosen tees for the day will have a slope of 130 or less and the rating will be 72 or less. It might be noted that the need for this rule did not become apparent until new tour member, Paul Carter, revealed an ability to hit 400 metre holes with a rescue club and an 8 iron.

## **Courses to be played (Bandido Exclusion Provision)**

The Tour Leader may veto the selection of a course to be played as requested by Bandido on the grounds that it is even worse than the worst course ever previously played, it is just a crappy worthless course, it is entirely overgrown (the 'Nimmitabel excuse') or for any arbitrary reason that the tour leader cannot be bothered to explain.



# The Rebel Tour Rules

## **NTP and Longest Drive**

Because of past apathy and indifference, the Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive competitions have been cancelled. If somebody can be bothered to organise and account for these events feel free.

## **The Rebel Tour Cup,**

There is a Rebel Tour Cup in somebody's possession. This was originally for the best scratch golfer, then for a variety of other competitions. As nobody can remember the current rules for the award of the Rebel Tour Cup (and nobody cares) the control of the rules (and of the Rebel Tour Cup) is now in the hands of John (Bandido) Fitzpatrick.

## **Handicaps**

Handicap Indexes are as per Golfink (or GHIN) on the morning of the Monday preceding the tour. Daily Handicaps are set at a slope of 133. Daily Handicaps are not adjusted during the tour. The maximum allowable Daily Handicap (the Farrugia amendment) is 18. This rule may be relaxed to allow the use of higher handicaps if the committee (upon examination of golf link records and perusal of submissions from interested parties) deems that a player has no chance of playing to 18. This very generous concession may be rescinded mid tour if evidence is presented to suggest prior sandbagging has been undertaken or that reverse pivots have been eliminated from a player's swing repertoire.

## **Qualifying Rounds**

Scoring is via the Stableford System. A minimum of five rounds must be played and the championship round (the last included round on the designated last tour day) must be one of the rounds. Competition rounds must be over 18 holes to be included unless the course is only 9 holes in length in which case the score for 9 holes is included and the average calculated on that basis (e.g.[for the avoidance of doubt] if 10 rounds of 18 holes and 1 round of 9 holes are played then the total score is divided by 10.5 – Lawyers will need to attend remedial arithmetic classes if they still don't understand this calculation). If more than two rounds are played in a day then the third round is not included in the competition results unless unanimous agreement of all those on tour is reached prior to the commencement of the round (The Cheltenham amendment).

## **Lost or out of bounds Ball**

A special lost ball rule applies for the tour. If a ball cannot be found in a reasonable time (3-minute maximum) or a player elects not to search for it then they can treat the point at where the errant ball was last seen (or where it crossed an out of bounds line)



# The Rebel Tour Rules

as the entry point to a lateral water hazard. A new ball can then be dropped **in the rough** within **two club lengths** of where it was last seen, and one stroke penalty taken. If a ball is found, then that ball must be played as it lies or declared unplayable (i.e. a player cannot find their ball and then elect to use the Tour lost ball rule). **Note: This is a very generous concession. Don't push your luck.** In general, only the player who has lost a ball should look for it. All other players in the group must play their ball before they offer to assist another player in looking for a ball. When another player starts to help looking for a ball then the ball is deemed to be lost 1 (one) minute after the time when the player starts helping to look for the ball.

## **Provisional Ball**

It is recognised that following a particularly bad shot that ends up in the 'donga' one is often inclined to hit a provisional ball to rid oneself of the 'idiot swing demons'. If one chooses to put the provisional ball into play, then a penalty stroke is not applied (i.e. if you hit a provisional ball off the tee then your next stroke will be your third stroke). It is expected that you will not spend three minutes looking for your first ball then elect to play your provisional ball. This rule is subject to the 'Bandido Exception clause' that you may only play one provisional ball off the tee and to the 'second Bandido exception clause' that if you hit into a Penalty Area then you must play the ball under the R&A rules relating to balls in Penalty Areas. If you lose your first ball off the tee and you then lose your provisional ball then you must either drop a ball approximately where your provisional ball was lost (therefore playing your 4<sup>th</sup> shot from that position) or play from the tee again with the addition of one penalty shot (therefore playing your 5<sup>th</sup> shot). Unfortunately, this clause needed to be added because the Engineers in their wildest dreams cannot envisage all of the ways Lawyers can find to take advantage of fair and reasonable rules.

## **Mulligans**

On rare occasions (particularly if alcohol is involved) your first shot of a round might be particularly disgusting (e.g. a topped tee shot on RMGC East). In such cases a mulligan may be played. This rule only applies to the first shot of a round and does not mean that every other player is immediately entitled to a mulligan. This is not a 'hit until you are happy rule'.

## **Putting Green**

No penalty will be incurred if they hit the flagstick. No penalty will be incurred if an opponent's ball is hit on the green while putting (but laughter is allowed).

## **Bunkers**

If a player's ball gets an abnormally bad lie caused by somebody failing to rake a footprint then, subject to approval from a competitor, the ball may be placed in a



# The Rebel Tour Rules

better lie. This rule should only be used for obviously unfair situations, not to cover the usual crappy raking techniques used by other golfers.

## **Gimmes**

Gimmes are not encouraged. However obvious (i.e. 6 inches or less – that’s 15 cm Leigh and Richard) putts may be conceded. Putts for 3 or more Stableford points must always be holed. The Leigh Brown (and Sergio Garcia) ‘backhanded rolling indifferent’ putt does not supersede this rule.

## **Early Calls**

Early calls are a blight on the game and should not be used by those with the ‘Power’.

## **Ready Golf**

If you are ready to hit, then you should hit even if it is not your honour or if somebody is stuffing around behind you. Try not to hit Tim as he will be some distance in front of you by the time you finish stuffing around. Make your club selection and get ready to play while other competitors are hitting, not after you have watched all the other players attempted shots.

## **Preferred Lies**

Automatic taking of preferred lies is not encouraged. However, if, on the fairway, your ball is in a divot or sand filled section then you may, with the approval of your fellow competitors, take a preferred lie. Preferred lies may also be taken whenever there is a reasonable expectation that you might damage your clubs or yourself (e.g. hitting tree roots [the relief from a root amendment], playing off rocks or stones etc)

## **Speed of Play**

The lowest handicapped person in each group is responsible for keeping the group moving. As a guide the maximum time for each hole should be 16 minutes for par 5s, 14 minutes for par 4s and 10 minutes for par 3s. Thus, on a typical course (4 par 5s, 4 par 3s and 10 par 4s) should take approximately 4 hours to complete. 4.5 hours is getting into the very slow range. 5 hours is totally unacceptable.

## **Local Rules**

Local Rules in the spirit of the Rebel Tour Philosophy may be introduced by general consensus (i.e. by the Tour Leader as he sees fit) as and when required and do not require ratification by the R&A or the USGA. Your attention is drawn to the “Laws of Golf” and “Senior Rules”