



TO: CADDIES - PGA TOUR CHAMPIONS, KORN FERRY TOUR and PGA TOUR AMERICAS MEMBERSHIP

FROM: PGA TOUR RULES COMMITTEE

RE: MODEL LOCAL RULE G-9 REVISION – JANUARY 1, 2025

BROKEN OR SIGNIFICANTLY DAMAGED CLUB REPLACED WITH SIMILAR CLUB

The following memo has been sent to the membership across the four tours under the PGA TOUR umbrella:

In conjunction with the USGA and R&A, the PGA TOUR and DP World Tour have been working towards a revision of Model Local Rule G-9. Used by a majority of professional tours since 2019, the Local Rule allows the replacement of a club that was broken or significantly damaged, except for a club that was cracked.

In recent years, the combination of extensive driver testing programs at professional tournaments in conjunction with additional procedures used by the USGA and R&A when testing new driver heads has minimized the frequency of cracks occurring at professional events. As a result, this allowed us to collectively revisit the previous exception in the Local Rule.

Effective January 1, 2025, a revision to the Local Rule will continue to permit the replacement of clubs that are broken or significantly damaged; but the damage will now include cracks in the clubhead or clubface, audible rattles within the clubhead and dents or kinks in the shaft. See the full text of the revised Local Rule attached.

An important part of the revision lies in a new restriction on the replacement club. The replacement club must be ‘similar’ to the damaged club, such that the replacement club fills the gap created by the club taken out of play. For example, a cracked driver must be replaced by another driving club, or a 7 iron with a broken shaft must be replaced by a club that fills that gap in the progression of the set of irons. A broken putter may only be replaced by a similar club, another putter.

Unchanged in the revision, a club damaged in cases of abuse may not be replaced.

For any questions, please seek a member of your respective Rules Committee.