TOURNAMENT RULES FOR INDIA HOUSE ECO PARK (IHEP)

*The tournament shall be governed as per the **"Rules of Golf"** as approved by **R & A Rules Limited.** Besides the above, the following **"Local Rules"** shall also be applicable for the conduct of tournament at India House Eco Park and shall **supersede** all earlier issued local rules.*

1. **Grouping / Pairing:** All members shall play in the designated group / pairing as notified by the Tournament Committee. Any changes to the above shall result in the disqualification of the member from the tournament, unless the changes are intimated by the Tournament Committee.

2. **Registration Fee:** All members shall ensure that they register and pay their registration fee for the tournament within the announced deadline. Failing which it will depend on the tech committee whether the late registration will be accepted or rejected.
    - For IHEP members, the tournament fee is Nu: 3,000.00
    - For Non- Members Nu: 4,000.00

3. **Reporting:** All members shall report before their allocated individual Tee Off time. Failure to do so and resulting in his / her group having teed off but not having holed out the 1st hole, he / she may join the group with a 2 stroke penalty. In the event the group has holed out the 1st hole, the latecomer shall be disqualified from the tournament.

4. **No Show**: Any member failing to report for his / her allocated Tee Off timing for tournaments shall be disqualified and he / she shall forfeit his / her registration fees and any prizes he / she is entitled to have won in the tournament.

5. **Completion of Round (s):** If a member is unable to play the 2nd day of the tournament, he / she should inform the Technical Committee / starter within an hour of completion of his / her round. Non adherence by a member shall result in forfeiting any minor prizes or day prizes, he / she may be in contention.

6. **Dress Code:**
    - Collared Shirts / High Tees & Full Trousers / Gho are allowed.
    - Jeans / Quarter pants / Half pants / Round neck tee shirts are not allowed

7. All Golfers are requested to ensure the following:
    - Divots are repaired / replaced.
    - Bunkers are raked after a shot is taken
    - No littering

8. The Technical Committee of IHEP reserves the right to reject or prohibit any golfer from participating in its tournament and to suspend or revoke their membership if the individual has been found guilty of cheating or engaging in dishonest conduct at any golf course within Bhutan.
    - **Cheating:** Golf relies on the integrity of players to self-govern and apply penalties. Deliberate, dishonest play is one of the most severe breaches and results in disqualification from the tournament and a ban of two years from any tournaments held at IHEP.
    - **Deliberately ignoring rules:** A player is disqualified if they know they have breached a rule that carries a penalty but knowingly choose to ignore it.
    - **Agreeing to waiver rules:** If two or more players agree to disregard any rule or penalty that they know applies and begin the round, all players involved are disqualified.
    - **Caddies:** In golf, a player is responsible for their caddie's actions. Any caddies found to have tampered with the lie of the ball, the player will receive two stroke penalty or disqualification if repeated.

- **Serious misconduct**:
    - Intentionally damaging the course, particularly a putting green, is a disqualifying offense.
    - Abusive behavior, repeatedly using vulgar or offensive language is a disqualifying offense.
    - Recklessly throwing a club in anger or taking other actions that endanger players or spectators is a disqualifying offense.

9. Eligibility Criteria – India House Golf Tournament: Participation in the tournament is open to Indian and Bhutanese citizens who are ordinarily resident in Bhutan.

10. **Handicap:** Any new golfers participating in any golf events at IHEP starts at zero handicap if he / she can't produce handicap certificate from outside golf courses as per International Club Rules.

LOCAL RULES OF IHEP

*The tournament shall be governed as per the **"Rules of Golf"** as approved by **R & A Rules Limited.** Besides the above, the following **"Local Rules"** shall also be applicable for the conduct of tournament at India House Eco Park and shall **supersede** all earlier issued local rules.*

1. **Out of Bounds (OB):** OBs are defined by white stakes. Further the following are designated as OB:-
    - Thimphu River; Tennis Court; Golf Hut Complex
    - 2nd / 11th Hole – The chain link fence behind the road and the rose garden
    - 4th / 13th Hole – Fence on the right side / Right of the white OB stakes
    - 6th / 15th Hole – Left of the white stakes and the rose garden behind the green
    - 18th Hole – Left of white stakes

2. The boundary wall is an integral part of the course and there is no relief.

3. Wooden Bridge Over Water Hazard/Stream/Drain: R&A - Under Rule No: 26: *THERE WILL BE NO FREE RELIEF*. If the ball is lodged in the wooden bridge, the player has the option to play the ball as it lies or take a drop, with a loss of a stroke/with preferred lie. Rule 13-4: It allows a player to ground his club on the wooden bridge if he chooses to play the ball**.**

4. **DROP**

    Free Drop: In case of a free drop, after dropping the ball, the ball has to be played as it lies. No preferred lie.
    A player may obtain free relief on the fairway by dropping the ball within one club length from where it lies with no penalty or in a designated drop area, away from the hole, under Rule 24-2(b) from:
    - Cricket Pitch.
    - Marked Saplings / Marked Flowers beds / Tee markers demarcated by white lines.
    - Sprinkler heads / Control boxes

    Penalty Drops: In case of a penalty drop, the ball can be dropped and placed with the club head ***only on the designated drop zone***.

5. **1st/3rd/8th/10th/12th/17th holes** – A player to lose a stroke if the ball crosses the blue stakes on the right side.

6. A player whose ball lands at the water hazard near the green at 1st, 4th, 5th, 10th, 13th& 14th hole, shall take the drop in the designated drop zone, play the ball with preferred lie with a loss of a stroke.

7. A player on the 2nd / 11th hole, whose ball come to rest next to the chain link fence / road, he has the option to play the ball as it lies or drop the ball at the designated drop zone with preferred lie with a loss of a stroke.

8. A player while playing the 3rd and 12th hole, if his ball lands in the stream/drains on either side of the road/in the drain next to the 8th/17th hole green, he has the option to play as it lies or take a drop at the designated drop zone, play the ball with preferred lie, with a loss of a stroke.

9. Lateral water hazard near the 3rd and 12th hole green have been defined by red stakes. If the ball is in the water hazard a player may drop the ball behind the hazard / with preferred lie / with a loss of a stroke.

10. A player whose ball lands in the lateral water hazards surrounding the 8th and 17th hole while playing the 3rd and 12th hole may drop the ball as far behind as he wishes / *with preferred lie*, with a loss of a stroke.

11. A player on the 6th hole and 15th hole whose ball come to rest next to the fence of the rose garden may take a drop at the designated drop zone with a loss of a stroke with preferred lie.

12. While playing the 8th/17th hole, if your ball lands in the lateral water hazards / below the chalk line determining the water line:
    - The player has the option of taking a water drop in the designated drop zone/with preferred lie/with a loss of a stroke.
    - The player may opt to replay from the original spot. Drop the ball and play as it lies with a loss of a stroke. *No preferred lie.*
    - If your ball lands in the stream / drain, the player has the option to play the ball as it lies or take a penalty drop at the designated drop zone with preferred lie.

RULES OF GOLF

1. Plugged Ball or Embedded ball: Rule 16.3 of the Rules of Golf, players are entitled for free relief "through the green" or "general area" of the course. The Marshal / Marker shall verify. The player can drop the ball and play as it lies with no penalty.
2. Putting from the green: While putting from the green, if the ball descends down from the green or around the green, the golfer has the option to play the ball as it lies or place the ball at the original spot & play with a loss of a stroke. *This rule shall be applicable for all the greens*
3. A player may declare a ball unplayable anywhere on the course with loss of a stroke and play it no closer to the Green and as far behind as he wishes.
4. All foot paths in the golf course are considered as Artificial Obstruction. You are entitled for free relief if: it impacts your stance / swing / lie of your ball. Relief point will be one club length left / right / behind, drop the ball and play as it lies**. *No preferred lie.***
5. Pace of play**:** All players are requested to play at a good pace. A player is permitted a maximum of 40 seconds to play a stroke and Ready Golf in stroke play is encouraged**.**
6. The search time has been reduced from 5 minutes to 3 minutes. Group Marshal / Marker to strictly implement the rule.

   To ensure the same, the following rules will apply:
   - A gap of one empty green between 2 groups – Warning
   - If it is repeated for a second time, all players in the group shall be penalized 2 strokes each.
   - If the offence is repeated for the third time, all players in the group shall be "DISQUALIFIED"

7. Score Card:
    - The Marshal shall maintain the scores of all players.
    - No alteration may be made on the score card after the player has returned it to the Committee.
    - All scores written on the score card should be legible without any overwriting.
    - Any correction made on the score cards shall be initialed by the player and marker.
    - All score cards shall be signed by the player and marker.
    - Non-compliance to these rules for score cards shall lead to the disqualification of the player.
    - Marshall's Card will be final. All Golfers are requested to sign for their scores in the 'Marshall's Card' and sort out any discrepancy with the Marshall before submitting the Card.
    - If a player turns in a score for any hole, lower than actually taken, he / she will be disqualified from the tournament. The score shall be compared with the marker / marshal score card.
    - If the returned score is higher than the actual score, the higher score for the hole stands and the player's position in the competition remains.
8. Drop from knee height (NOT shoulder height)
9. Measure the area to drop in with the longest club in your bag (except a putter)
10. Drop in and play from the relief area
11. When dropping back on the line, your ball cannot be played from nearer the hole than your chosen reference point
12. If you accidentally move your ball when searching for it, replace it back without any penalty
13. No penalty for a double hit (TC Chen) – it only counts as one stroke
14. No penalty if your ball hits you or your equipment accidentally after a stroke
15. No penalty if your ball strikes the flagstick when you have chosen to leave it in the hole
16. Spike marks and other shoe damage on the putting green can be repaired
17. Ball accidentally moved on the putting green can be replaced back with no penalty
18. Ball marked, lifted and replaced on the putting green is moved by wind to another position – replace ball on the original spot
19. Penalty areas replace water hazards and you can move loose impediments, ground your club and take practice swings in penalty areas without penalty, just as you can on the fairway or in the rough
20. You can't take relief from a penalty area unless you are at least 95% certain your ball is in the penalty area
21. In bunkers you can move loose impediments
22. In bunkers you cannot touch the sand with your club in the area right in front of or right behind your ball, during your backswing or in taking practice swings
23. Unplayable ball in the bunker – extra option to drop the ball outside the bunker for 2 penalty strokes
24. You cannot have your caddie or your playing partner standing behind you once you begin taking your stance

IGNORANCE FROM THE RULES SHALL NOT BE ACCEPTED AS AN EXCUSE BY THE TECH COMMITTEE OF IHEP AND STRICT PENALTIES WILL BE IMPOSED