



## **GOLF CANADA PROVIDES GUIDANCE TO LOCAL COMMITTEES FOR DETERMINING PLAYER ELIGIBILITY FOR USE OF RULE 25 “MODIFICATIONS FOR PLAYERS WITH DISABILITIES”**

Effective January 1, 2023, “Modifications for Players with Disabilities” became Rule 25 in the Rules of Golf and will apply automatically in all competitions and general play for anyone who is eligible to use them. The introduction of Rule 25 to the 2023 Rules of Golf is an important statement in terms of the inclusivity of the Rules of Golf and the accessibility of the game.

In some cases where clearly evident without the need for proof or assessment that a player is eligible for use of the modifications under Rule 25 (such as visible loss of a limb), the local committee may accept a player’s eligibility without the need for any additional documentation. Equally, if the committee has previously confirmed a player’s eligibility to use the Modified Rules, then it may continue to accept a player’s eligibility to use the modifications in Rule 25 without the need for an additional or ongoing review. If there is any doubt on whether a player is eligible for use of the modifications under Rule 25, or if a committee decides that players must provide a formal proof of their eligibility, then the committee may choose to make that request and require that players provide proof of their eligibility.

The following list contains guidance for local committees on the criteria that would make a player eligible to use the modifications in Rule 25. Generally, as proof to confirm eligibility, local committees should request that players present their WR4GD Player Pass. A local committee may require a player to be assessed by an EDGA Eligibility Assessor to confirm their eligibility to apply Rule 25 in a competition. Further, local committees may also accept the player’s eligibility to use the modifications in Rule 25 if that has previously been approved by Golf Canada for its competitions. Eligibility decisions under Rule 25 are required only for players who have impairments that fall within one of the four categories of disability covered in the Rule:

- Player who is Blind or has a Visual Impairment
- Player who is an Amputee
- Player who uses an Assistive Mobility Device
- Player who has an Intellectual Disability

The EDGA WR4GD Player Pass and the EDGA Access Pass are administered and issued by the EDGA Eligibility Team and the application process for golfers to get an EDGA Pass is free of charge. More information can be found at: [www.edgagolf.com/online/pass/pass\\_info.php](http://www.edgagolf.com/online/pass/pass_info.php).

It is recognized that there are many players with other types of disabilities (such as players with neurological conditions, players with orthopaedic conditions, players of short stature and players who are deaf). These additional categories of disability are not covered in Rule 25 as, to date, no requirement has been identified for modification of the Rules of Golf for these players. However, in addition to the specific references within Rule 25 (such as the use of assistive mobility devices or prosthetics), any player (including players to which Rule 25 does not apply) may ask the committee in charge of a competition for permission to use an artificial device and, under Rule 4.3b, a player is not in breach of Rule 4.3 for using equipment to help with a medical condition if the committee finds that:

- The player has a medical reason for using the equipment, and
- The use of that equipment would not give the player an unfair advantage over other players.

If a local committee requires any further guidance on determining player eligibility for Rule 25, they should contact Golf Canada at 1-800-263-0009 ex. 208.