



Rules of Golf



20 Most Important Rule Changes for 2019

1. You have only three minutes to look for your lost ball instead of five.
2. No penalty for accidentally moving your ball while searching for it. Simply put it back.
3. You can take a free drop from an embedded ball whether in fairway or rough.
4. When taking a club length, you can use your longest club (driver) to measure club length.
5. When taking a drop, drop from approximately knee height not shoulder height as in the past.
6. If you hit a ball to the wrong green, you took a drop to the nearest point of relief, which was usually the fringe as you can't hit a ball on the green. Now you don't even stand on the green, you and your ball are off the green on the fringe.
7. If you hit yourself or your equipment there was a one stroke penalty. Now you no longer need to take a penalty if it was done by accident.
8. A double hit now only counts as one stroke.
9. You can now smooth out marks on the sand (such as with a rake) as long as they are not in the line of play, and you can also lean on your club in the sand without penalty, but not test the sand by touching with your hand or downing your club before you hit the ball.
10. You can now remove loose impediments from anywhere near your ball such as twigs or branches; but if your ball moves, you take a one stroke penalty and put the ball back.

11. Another option is available for an unplayable lie in a bunker and that is to take a two-penalty stroke behind the bunker and still in line with the flag. You may still take a one-stroke penalty and drop your ball in the bunker.
12. Water areas are now called penalty areas but don't need to contain water, whereby a player can take a sideways drop and take a one stroke penalty.
13. You can now touch the ground behind the ball in the penalty area and even set it down in the water without a penalty.
14. If you mark a ball on the green and it moves on its own or by the wind you can now just put it back.
15. If you accidentally move the ball on the green, you can put it back without penalty, even if you accidentally hit it with a practice swing.
16. You can repair any manmade damage on the green, not including natural imperfections, without penalty.
17. Positioning club on the ground to line up shots is not permitted.
18. A caddie is no longer allowed to help position shots.
19. Hitting the flagstick in the hole now is without penalty. You may leave the flag in the hole.
20. If part of the ball is below the lip but leaning against the flag, it is considered holed and can be picked up.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=chPOTfLUHC0&t=164s>



Thanks to Cindy Ryan for putting this together!