

# 2019 GOLF RULES CHANGES

## # RULE NOTES

1	4.1b (3)	If a player damages a club during the course of play, the player can no longer replace the club.
2	4.2c	No longer need to announce that you are checking your ball for damage or to identify. Still have to mark the ball position.
3	4.3a (1)	Distance measuring devices are allowed but the committee may adopt a local rule prohibiting them.
4	5.6b (1)	New recommended time for making a stroke is 40 seconds.
5	5.6b (2)	In stroke play, you may play ready golf in a safe and responsible way to save time.
6	6.3b (1)	Player may now change a ball when taking a drop or placing but not when replacing.
7	7.4	If a ball is accidentally moved by anyone while searching for it, there is no penalty. Replace it on its original spot.
8	8.1c	No penalty for removing an Out of Bounds stake, but it must be replaced prior to the stroke.
9	10.1a	If the player's club accidentally hits the ball more than once in a single stroke, it is just considered one stroke. (TC Chen Rule)
10	10.2b (2)	A player or caddie may touch the putting green before a stroke is made to indicate the line as long as it is removed prior to the stroke.
11	10.2b (3)	A player may not use any object to assist the alignment for the upcoming stroke. (IE. laying a club down)
12	10.2b (4)	A caddie or partner must not deliberately stand behind the player while taking their stance.
13	11.1a	If a ball in motion accidentally hits the player or equipment, no penalty, must be played as it lies.
14	12.2a	A player can move loose impediments in a bunker but the ball must not be moved.
15	12.2b (2)	A player can rake a bunker for the care of the course and may lean on a club in the bunker prior to a stroke from the bunker, as long as it does not effect the stroke upcoming.
16	13.1c (2)	You may repair spike marks or other damage on the putting green.
17	13.1d (1)	When a player moves a ball on the putting green accidentally, no penalty, must replace the ball.
18	13.1d (2)	A ball on the putting green that moves after being marked, lifted and replaced must be replaced to its original spot. (even if moved by wind or slope)
19	13.1f	A ball coming to rest on a wrong green, now you must take full relief from that green. (including your stance)
20	13.2a (1)	A ball striking the flagstick in the hole at anytime is no longer a penalty. (even if you are on the green)
21	13.2c	A ball resting against the flagstick with any part of the ball below the green surface it is deemed holed.
22	14.1b Exception	Your caddie may mark and lift your ball on the putting green but must be the one to replace it.
23	14.3b	Ball must be dropped at knee height. If dropped at shoulder height it must be redropped, no penalty.
24	14.3c	When taking relief by dropping, your ball must come to rest in the relief area. May drop twice then must be placed if outside of relief area.
25	15.1	You may remove a loose impediment without penalty anywhere on or off of the golf course.
26	16.3	Embedded ball is now in all general area, not just in closely mown area, free relief.
27	17.1b	You may now ground your club, touch the water and take practice strokes in a "Penalty Area".
28	17.1d (3)	Lateral relief on the opposite side of a "Red Penalty Area" is not allowed unless a local rule permits.
29	18.2a (1)	Time allowed to search for a lost ball has been reduced from 5 minutes to 3 minutes.
30	19.3b	When your ball is unplayable in a bunker, you may take "back on the line" relief outside of the bunker, with a total of two penalty strokes. (this is an additional option)
31	Local Rule 8 E-1	When dropping in the drop zone, the ball must be dropped at knee height and come to rest within the dropping zone.

