

# MAJOR RULE CHANGES FOR 2019

Revised May 23, 2019

*Please refer to the RULES OF GOLF (January 2019 edition) for a full explanation of the rules*

1. Search Time – Reduced from 5 minutes to 3 minutes
2. Water Hazards – now called “Penalty Areas”
3. Dropping – drop from knee height rather than shoulder
4. Ball Wedged against flag stick and side of hole is deemed as holed
5. Measuring a Drop – Use longest club (except putter)
  
6. Ball Moved During Search – Replace the ball, **NO PENALTY**
7. Ball Unintentionally Hits Player or Equipment – **NO PENALTY**
8. Double Hit. It only counts as ONE stroke. **NO PENALTY**
9. Touching Ground in Penalty Area – **NO PENALTY**
10. Ball moves on green after being Marked – Replace **NO PENALTY**
11. Ball Accidentally moved on Putting Green – Replace **NO PENALTY**
  
12. Embedded Ball. Free relief anywhere through the course (However, may not clean ball unless daily local rule allows) **IS PERMITTED**
13. Repairing all damage to Green **IS PERMITTED**
14. Touching sand in bunker incidentally **IS PERMITTED**
15. Removing loose impediments anywhere on course including Hazards and Bunkers **IS PERMITTED**
16. Putting with Flagstick in the hole **IS PERMITTED**
  
17. Taking Stance on Wrong Green is **NOT PERMITTED** (ie. If your fairway shot lands on a wrong green, you may not play from that but in an area off that green, no closer to hole)
18. Positioning a club for alignment is **NOT PERMITTED**
  
19. Lost or Out-of-Bounds Ball. As an alternative to going back and re-hitting from where the original shot was made (under Stroke & Distance incurring **1 stroke penalty**) OR playing a provisional ball, a ball can now be dropped in a relief area defined as the area or point of where ball is lost/OB and 2 clubs lengths from nearest fairway, no closer to the hole for a **2 stroke penalty** (i.e., now hitting 4 if loss of ball was from tee). [Click Here to See VIDEO](#)
20. Unplayable ball in bunker. Under a **2 stroke penalty**, ball may be brought outside of bunker “back-on-the-line”. [Click Here to See VIDEO](#)