

## Practical Application of 2019 USGA Golf Rules Changes

General Changes	2018	2019	Rule
My shot strikes opponent or his/her equipment	Option to play the ball as it lies or re-play without penalty	No penalty. Play the ball as it lies.	
Areas designated 'lateral hazard'	Not allowed. Not a water hazard.	Allowed. Drop ball in the relief area.	14.3
Designated hazard areas	2 stroke penalty	Now designated 'penalty Areas'	
Substituting balls when taking relief		Always allowed	14.3
Fixed distances to be used for measurement for relief(1 or 2 club lengths)		Longest club in the bag (but not a putter)	14.3
New standard on determining what caused a ball to move		If not done by player, no penalty. Re-place ball.	9.2
<b>Changes not affecting play directly</b>			
Distance measuring devices	Prohibited unless allowed by local rule	Allowed unless prohibited by local rule	
Anchoring long putters against one's body	Not Allowed	Prohibited	
Caddie standing behind the player to help the player line up a shot	Allowed	Not Allowed once the player begins taking a stance for the stroke and until the stroke is made.	10.2b(4)
Flagstick in the cup during play on the green	Not Allowed once all players' balls are on the green	Allowed. Player's choice whether to leave the flagstick in the cup	
Players should make a stroke in no more than 40 seconds		New rule in 2019	5.6
'Maximum strokes' for a hole	USGA Equitable Stroke Control	Club policy	21.2
"Reasonable Judgements" of spot, point, line, area or other location	Could be overturned on review	Not reviewable	1.3b(2)
Marking and lifting the ball (rules 4.2c, 7.3 and 16.4)	Must announce intentions	Do not need to announce	
Caddie marking and lifting the ball without permission	1 stroke penalty	No penalty	
Time for searching for lost balls	5 minutes	3 minutes	18.2
Dropping a ball	Shoulder height	Knee height	14.3

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Changes affecting play	2018	2019	Rule
<b>On The Tee</b>			
Miss that causes the ball to leave the tee but not the teeing ground	1 stroke and distance (where it lies)	No penalty. Can re-tee the ball	6.2b
<b>On The Green</b>			
Fixing marks on the green in the area of your putting line	2 stroke penalty	No penalty	13.1c(2)
Striking obstacles on the green while putting	2 stroke penalty. Play the ball as it lies.	No penalty. Play the ball as it lies.	13.2b(2)
Touching the putting line	2 stroke penalty.	No penalty.	
Movement of the ball	Depended on movement cause	No penalty. Replace on spot	13.1d
<b>In a Bunker</b>			
Removing loose impediments	2 stroke penalty.	No penalty.	17
Touching the sand with your club (no practice swings!)	2 stroke penalty.	No penalty if no intent to test the sand.	17
Unplayable lie in a bunker: remove the ball for a 2 stroke penalty	Not allowed: disqualification.	Allowed	19.3b
<b>In a penalty Area</b>			
Grounding your club	2 stroke penalty.	No penalty	
Practice strokes	2 stroke penalty.	No penalty	
Dropped ball location (must be within the penalty area)	3 tries and place	2 tries and place	14.3
Embedded ball on the course (not in sand trap)	No relief unless local rule in	Relief - 1 club length max	16.3
Removing loose impediments.	2 stroke penalty.	No penalty.	17
Lateral water hazard - dropping ball on opposite side from entry	Allowed	Committee: allowed	

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<b>Accidental Situations</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>Rule</b>
Moving a ball on a putting green with the putter head (no stroke)	1 stroke penalty.	No penalty. Re-place the ball.	13.1d
Ball in motion deflected by player, equipment or caddie	2 stroke penalty. Play it as it lies.	No penalty. Play it as it lies.	11.1
Ball moved during a search	1 stroke penalty.	No penalty. Replace	7.4
Multiple hits with a club	Stroke + penalty. Play the ball as it lies.	Stroke but no penalty. Play the ball as it lies.	10.1a
<b>Relief Situations</b>			
Relief area fixed at either 1 or 2 club lengths, measured from a reference point.		New Definition	
Ball comes to rest in an artificial hole	No relief.	Relief no nearer the hole.	
Ball comes to rest in casual water.	2 stroke penalty	No penalty. Move ball no nearer the hole within relief area.	
Ball embedded in the fairway or the rough.	No relief.	Free relief within 1 club length	16.3
Ball embedded in the lip of a bunker, not the sand.	Ball is in the bunker. No relief.	Ball is NOT in the bunker. Relief under embedded ball rule.	16.3
<b>Miscellaneous</b>			
<b>Equipment</b>			
Sharing 14 clubs during a 4 ball competition	Allowed	Allowed	
Damage to clubs from another golfer	Club replacement allowed	Club replacement allowed	4.1
Damaging my own clubs and continuing to use them (e.g.: anger)	Disqualification	Allowed. No penalty	4.1
Breaking a club while playing a stroke (e.g: hitting something)	Club replacement allowed	Club replacement allowed	4.1