

New Rules of Golf for 2019

The R&A and the USGA have unveiled the new Rules of Golf which will take effect on 1 January 2019. The new Rules book “The Players Edition of the Rules of Golf” is aimed at the golfer and written accordingly, referring to “you” throughout. It contains the Rules for situations that occur most commonly on the course and is an abridged version of the full Rules. Although its text is edited, it gives the same answer as the full Rules of Golf and so it is a functioning Rule book. We are encouraging every Member to carry a printed copy of this book in their golf bag or ensure that they have the Players Edition on their smart device.

Over two instalments we will be publishing and highlighting the main changes. Below you will find the first six of these main changes.

Definitions (Players Edition, pages 135-148)

Penalty Area & General Area

Previously defined water hazards are now referred to as **Penalty Areas** and are designated by Red stakes. Through the Green is now referred to as the **General Area** and this includes all of the course except, the teeing area when starting the hole, penalty areas, bunkers and the putting green of the hole being played.



Club Length

The length of the longest club of the 14 (or fewer) clubs the player has during round other than a putter.

Rule 9 – Ball Moved (*Players Edition, pages 52-55*)

There will be no penalty for accidentally moving a ball on the putting green or in searching for a ball.

Rule 10 – Double Hit (*Players Edition, pages 56-61*)

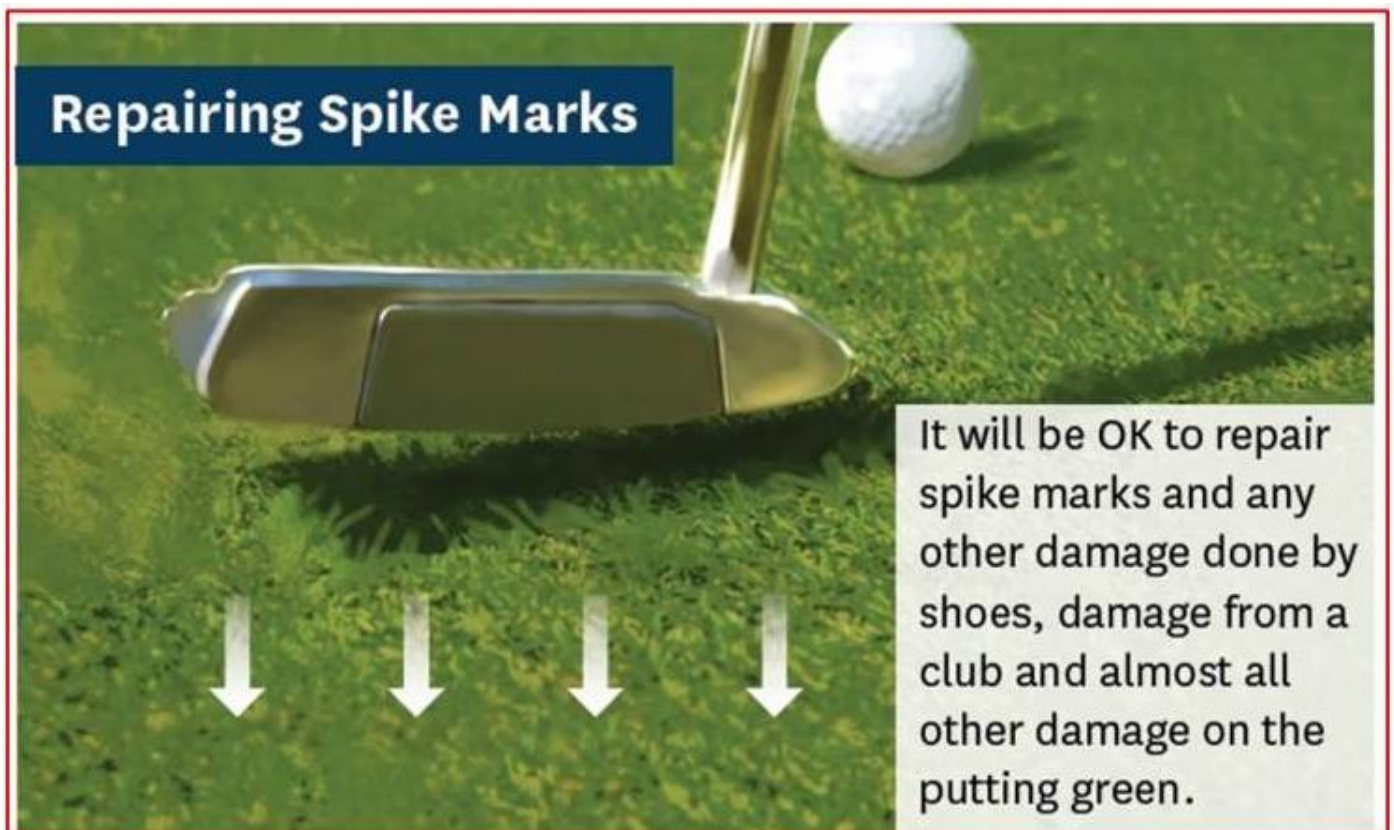
In making a stroke if your club accidentally hits the ball more than once, there has been only one stroke and there is no penalty.

Rule 11 – Ball In Motion (*Players Edition, pages 62-63*)

If your ball in motion accidentally hits any person or outside influence, including you, any other player or any of your caddies or equipment, there is no penalty to any player.

Rule 13 – Relaxed Putting Green Rules (*Players Edition, pages 68-74*)

There will be no penalty if a ball played from the putting green hits an unattended flagstick in the hole. Players may repair spike marks and other damage made by shoes, animal damage and other damage on the putting green and there is no penalty for merely touching the line of putt.



Rule 14 - Dropping Procedure (*Players Edition, pages 76-86*)

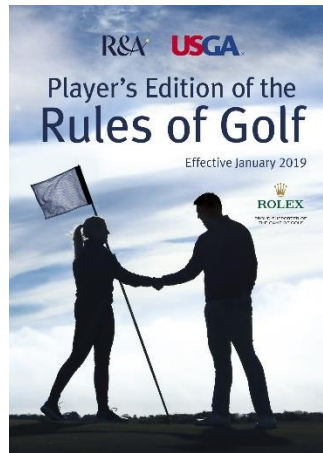
A new procedure for taking relief by dropping a ball in and playing it from a specific relief area; relaxed procedures for dropping a ball, allowing the ball to be dropped from knee height.



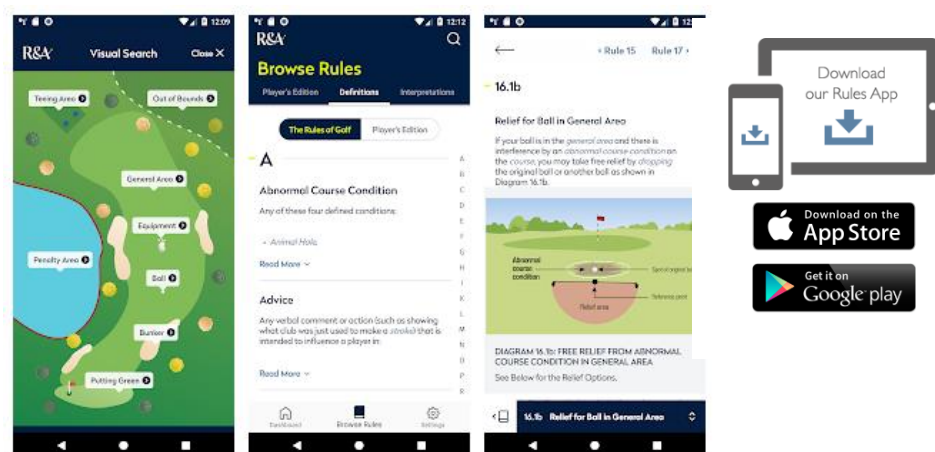
Next week we will cover the additional main changes to the rules of Golf.

The Players Edition of the Rules of Golf

You can obtain a printed copy of the **Players Edition of the Rules of Golf** from the Pro Shop or Club House.



In addition, why not download the official **Rules of Golf App** available for iPhone and Android.



Also available is a spiral bound **Golf Rules Quick Reference Guide** which can be purchased from book shops including Amazon and WH Smith.

