

20 Most Important Changes to Rules of Golf 2019.

1. Search time – reduced from 5 to 3 minutes.
2. Ball moving during search – replace (no penalty).
3. Embedded ball – free relief anywhere.
4. Measuring a drop – use longest club (except putter).
5. Dropping – knee height rather than shoulder.
6. Taking stance on wrong green not permitted.
7. Ball hits player or equipment – no penalty.
8. Double hit – counts as one stroke.
9. Touching sand in bunker incidentally is permitted.
10. Loose impediments can be removed anywhere.
11. Drop a ball out of a bunker – 2 penalty strokes.
12. Water hazards now penalty areas.
13. Touching the ground in water/penalty areas acceptable.
14. Ball moves on green after being marked – put back without penalty.
15. Ball accidentally moves on putting green – replace (no penalty).
16. Can repair all damage on the green.
17. Positioning a club for alignment not permitted.
18. Caddie assisting with alignment not permitted.
19. Ball hitting a flagstick on putting green allowed.
20. Ball wedged against the side of the hole and flagstick deemed as holed.



Summary Chart: The Major Proposed Changes in the New Rules of Golf for 2019

Category	Sub-category	Topic	Description of change
Ball at rest	Ball moved	Player accidentally moves his or her ball during search	New rule: No penalty. Current rule: 1-stroke penalty.
	Ball moved	Player accidentally moves his or her ball or ball-marker on the putting green	New rule: No penalty. Current rule: 1-stroke penalty (with exceptions).
	Ball moved	Standard for deciding whether the player caused his or her ball to move	New rule: The player will be found to be the cause only when it is known or virtually certain (meaning at least 95%) to be the cause. Current rule: Weight of the evidence/more likely than not.
	Ball replaced	How to replace a ball lying off the putting green when it moves and its exact original spot isn't known	New rule: Replace the ball on its estimated spot; if that spot was on, under or against attached natural objects, replace the ball on that spot on, under or against those objects. Current rule: Drop the ball as near as possible to the estimated spot.
Ball in motion	Accidental deflection	Player's ball in motion accidentally hits the player, his or her caddie, the person attending the flagstick or the attended or removed flagstick	New rule: No penalty. Current rule: 1-stroke penalty (except it is a 2-stroke penalty when the accidental deflection relates to the flagstick or the attendant).
Taking relief	Dropping procedure	Where a ball must be dropped	New rule: Drop in a defined relief area. Current rule: Sometimes the drop is in a specified area, sometimes it is on or as near as possible to a spot or a line.
	Dropping procedure	Where a dropped ball must come to rest	New rule: The ball must come to rest in the relief area where it was dropped, or else the ball must be re-dropped. Current rule: The ball must be re-dropped if it rolls to any of the nine specified areas (Rule 20-2c), such as rolling more than 2 club-lengths from where the dropped ball struck the ground.