

The Most Important Changes to the Rules of Golf 2019

- **Search Time** – Reduced from 5 Minutes to 3 Minutes.
- **Ball Moved During Search** – Replace Ball, No Penalty.
- **Embedded Ball** – Free relief anywhere within the General Area.
- **Measuring a Drop** – Use the longest club in your bag (except a putter).
- **Dropping** – Drop from knee height rather than shoulder height.
- **Taking stance on wrong green is not permitted.**
- **Ball unintentionally hits player or equipment** – No Penalty.
- **Double Hit** – No Penalty. This will only count as 1 stroke.
- **Touching sand in a Bunker accidentally incurs no penalty.** There are exceptions to this rule: prohibiting testing the condition of the sand or touching the sand whilst preparing a stroke and touching the sand with their club in front or behind the ball. A 2 Shot Penalty will be incurred.
- **Loose impediments can be removed anywhere including bunkers and Penalty Areas.** If the ball moves while removing a loose impediment a 1 Shot Penalty will be incurred.
- **Dropping a ball out of a bunker** – 2 Penalty Strokes.
- **Touching or grounding club in Penalty Area** – No Penalty.
- **Ball moves on the green after being marked** – Replace with No Penalty.
- **Ball accidentally moved on putting green** – Replace with No Penalty.
- **All damage to the green can be repaired** - this includes pitch marks and spike marks.
- **Positioning a club for alignment is not permitted.**
- **Caddie assisting with alignment is not permitted.**
- **Putting with the flag stick in the hole is now permitted.**
- **Ball wedged against a flag stick and side of a hole is deemed as holed.**
- **Out of Bounds** – No Change to the current rule. Play from the original position. If you are in doubt regarding your ball being Out of Bounds, play a provisional.
- **Knockout Competitions** – If a match is all square after the final hole, the match is extended one hole at a time until there is a winner.
- **Damaged Club** – No matter what the nature or cause of the damage, a club will be treated as conforming for the remainder of the round.

Key Terminology Changes to the Rules of Golf 2019

- Through the Green → **General Area** ((whole course apart from tee, green and hazards)
- Teeing Ground → **Teeing Area**
- Water/Lateral Hazard → **Yellow/Red Penalty Area**
- Outside Agency → **Outside Influence**
- Abnormal Ground Condition → **Abnormal Course Condition**
- Casual Water → **Temporary Water**
- Play Prohibited → **No Play Zone**