



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

Category	Sub-category	Topic	Description of change
<b>Ball at rest</b>	Ball moved	Player accidentally moves his or her ball during search	<b>New rule: No penalty.</b> Current rule: 1-stroke penalty.
	Ball moved	Player accidentally moves his or her ball or ball-marker on the putting green	<b>New rule: No penalty.</b> Current rule: 1-stroke penalty (with exceptions).
	Ball moved	Standard for deciding whether the player caused his or her ball to move	<b>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 case.</b> 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	<b>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.</b> Current rule: Drop the ball as near as possible to the estimated spot.
<b>Ball in motion</b>	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	<b>New rule: No penalty.</b> Current rule: 1-stroke penalty (except it is a 2-stroke penalty when the accidental deflection relates to the flagstick or the attendant).
	Double hit	Player accidentally hits the ball more than one during a stroke.	<b>New rule: No penalty.</b> Current rule: 1-stroke penalty.
<b>Taking relief</b>	Dropping procedure	Where a ball must be dropped	<b>New rule: Drop in a defined relief area.</b> 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	<b>New rule: The ball must come to rest in the relief area where it was dropped. If the ball comes to rest outside of the relief area, the player will drop a second time in the relief area. If the ball again comes to rest outside the relief area, the player will place it where the ball first touched the ground on the second drop.</b> 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.