



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

Category	Sub-category	Topic	Description of change
	Penalty areas	Elimination of the opposite side relief option for red penalty areas	<b>New rule: A player is no longer allowed to take relief from a red penalty area on the opposite side from where the ball last entered that penalty area, unless the Committee adopts a Local Rule allowing it.</b> Current rule: A player is always allowed to take relief from the opposite side of a red-marked lateral water hazard.
	Bunkers	Player moves or touches a loose impediment in a bunker when the ball is in the bunker	<b>New rule: No penalty.</b> Current rule: Loss of hole/2-stroke penalty (with exceptions).
	Bunkers	Player touches sand in a bunker with his or her hand or a club when the ball is in the bunker	<b>New rule: No penalty except when a player touches sand (1) with his or her hand or club to test the conditions of the bunker, (2) in making a practice swing, (3) with the club in the area right behind or in front of the ball or (4) in making the backswing for the stroke.</b> Current rule: Any touching of sand with hand or club results in loss of hole/2-stroke penalty (with exceptions).
	Bunkers	Unplayable ball relief options	<b>New rule: A player may take relief outside the bunker back on the line from the hole through where ball was at rest for 2 penalty strokes.</b> Current rule: No relief outside the bunker (other than in playing from where the player's last stroke was made).
<b>Equipment</b>	Damaged clubs	Use of clubs damaged during round	<b>New rule: A player may keep using any damaged club, no matter the nature or cause of the damage, even if the player damaged it in anger.</b> Current rule: A player may use the damaged club only if it was damaged in the "normal course of play."
	Damaged clubs	Adding clubs to replace a club damaged during round	<b>New rule: A player may not replace a damaged club, unless the player was not responsible for the damage.</b> Current rule: A player may replace a damaged club if it is "unfit for play" and was damaged in the "normal course of play."