Rules of Golf Workshops

Presentation Notes

SLIDE 1

* Welcome
* Introduce yourself and position
* Provide any H&S information dependant on venue
* Please ask questions throughout the presentation

SLIDE 2

* Many significant years in the evolution of the Rules of Golf
* 2019 – is going to be a very significant year in this whole evolution – with changes in the Rules that result from the R&A and USGA Rules Modernisation Initiative.
* This initiative began in 2012 when a working group of USGA and R&A Rules staff, committee members, professional tour officials and other Rules experts was set up to examine the substance of the Rules and how they are written - with the aim of bringing the Rules up to date to fit the needs of today’s global game.
* The changes for 2019 are a culmination of six years work. Throughout this process many different people and organisations have been consulted.
* And in March 2017, details of the proposed changes, including a full draft of the proposed Rules of Golf were made public. This was the first time the golfing public were given the opportunity to provide their views and this was done via an online feedback survey.
* Since then, the feedback has been reviewed and further discussed and has led to what we now have – the final Rules of Golf for 2019
* The overall goals for these modernised Rules are threefold:
* To be more easily understood and applied
* To be more consistent, simple and fair
* To reinforce the game’s longstanding principles and character.

SLIDE 3

* Outline contents of presentation
* Some of you may have spent a lot of time looking at the new Rules – visiting the R&A website and reading the various online resources, watching the videos, downloading the apps and pouring over the new published Rule Book.
* Others may have deliberately avoided looking at the new Rules as you have still been running competitions under the current Rules and have not wanted to mix the two together – you’ve been waiting to see how the new Rules affect you and what level of detail you now need to know.

SLIDE 4

* Now to look at some of the ways the language has been changed, being deliberately written in a more modern, plain style using common words, shorter sentences and headings that explain the Rules.
* Simply by looking at the new terminology for these definitions, you can see that there is a simplicity and consistency applied. The term ‘area’ is used frequently, terms that don’t seem in keeping with golf like ‘*outside* agency’, ‘*casual* water’, ‘play *prohibited*’ have been replaced by more intuitive words or phrases.
* Some of these words are very relevant to the Local Rules
* Another thing you’ll notice in the Rule book is the end of male-only references – and also the use of the phrase “General Penalty” rather than constant repetition of either a 2 stroke penalty in Stroke Play or Loss of hole in Match play.

SLIDE 5

* So looking at changes in the Rules now, and looking at what players now : can, can’t, should, must or may do on the golf course.
* Some key principles have been introduced, to use a consistent approach for similar situations and provide fairer outcomes, whenever you are on the golf course.
* Players will continue to drop a ball when taking relief under many different Rules, with or without penalty, but the dropping procedure has changed in several ways.
* First new concept: The Reference Point. When dropping a ball, a player must now have a reference point. This is the spot from which they measure the area in which to drop. Recommended that this point is marked with a tee peg or other small object. No penalty if the reference point is not marked, but without a defined mark, it can make the whole dropping procedure more complicated.
* Directly linked to this is :
* New concept of the Relief area. This is the area a player must drop a ball when taking relief.
* It is also the area where a ball must come to rest when taking relief.
* Ball must be re-dropped if it comes to rest outside this relief area.

The whole issue of whether a ball has rolled a further 2 lengths and still be in play is no longer relevant. The dropped ball must stay in the relief area.

* Standardises the process when taking relief and makes the dropping procedure more easily understood.

SLIDE 6

* Still within the context of dropping, Club Length has now been defined – now found in the back of the Rule book in the definitions.
* This has a direct impact on establishing the size of the player’s relief area.
* Previously the definition of a club length was tucked away in the Decisions with an explanation that any club in the bag could be used to measure a club or two club lengths.
* Now is it defined as the longest club in your bag, except the putter.
* As a driver is likely to be most people longest club in the bag, this club will be the one that determines the size of the Relief Area. Any other club the player has in their hand has nothing to do with Club Length.
* We would recommend that players always use the longest club when measuring to avoid any problems of lifting a ball when it has come to rest correctly within the relief area.

SLIDE 7

To completed the dropping procedure – Dropping the ball from knee height.

* How a ball is to be dropped is simplified. The only requirement is that the ball be let go from knee height so that it falls through the air and does not touch any part of the player’s body or equipment before it hits the ground.
* The ball must be dropped within and come to rest within the specific relief area set by the Rule under which you are taking relief and will be within 1 or 2 club lengths of the reference point.
	+ The example we’re showing here is 1 club length but we will cover 2 clubs lengths later.
* No re-drop if it accidentally hits a person or object after hitting the ground but before coming to rest in the relief area.
* Dropped a second time if it comes to rest outside the relief area. If this happens again it is placed where it first touched the ground on the second drop.
* R&A considered various heights but decided on knee height as this:
* A lower height increases the chances of the ball staying within the relief area
* Dropping rather than placing retains a desired randomness to where the ball comes to rest, so not always a good lie
* and probably results to fewer plugged balls in bunkers!

SLIDE 8

* Now some changes that are linked to searching for your ball. The underlying principles of these changes are to :
* have a positive impact on place of play
* make the Rules simple and practical to apply
* bring consistency to the approach of trusting the player.

* The time allowed for searching for a ball, before it becomes lost has been reduced from 5 mins to 3mins.
	+ The key rationale for this change is the notion that golf is to be played in a prompt and continuous way. Studies have also found that balls are generally found within 3 mins. Should also encourage players to play provisional balls.
* If a player accidently moves their ball while searching for it there is no longer a penalty. The ball will always be replaced, even if the exact spot is not known. The original spot will simply need to be estimated.
	+ One reason for this change is the belief that the Rules should help the player find his or her ball (within a reasonable length of time) and not penalise them when they do. As searches often take place in long grass, bushes, leaves there is an inherent risk of the ball moving. And yet in both in match or stroke play, opponents or other players do not have the risk of penalty if the ball accidentally moves - now it is fairer and more consistent.
	+ This new principle under Rule 14.2 of always replacing a ball whenever it has been lifted or moved under a Rule that requires it to be replaced will eliminate any confusion around whether the original spot was known or not. When estimating the spot, the player needs to include any imperfections, such as replacing the ball under thick grass/ against other growing or fixed things.
* Under the new Rules, a player may mark and lift a ball to identify it, to see if it is unfit for play, or to check whether they are entitled to relief, without first needing to announce this intention to another person or give that person a chance to observe the process.
* If however this was done for no good reason, the player would incur a penalty of one stroke.
* Also worth noting that under the new Rules, a ball that is simply out of shape (not cut or cracked) is not a reason on its own to substitute a ball.
	+ An underlying reason for this change is the Rules generally rely on the integrity of the player. E.g. taking relief from a road. Lifting ball, finding NPOR, dropping ball, playing from new spot, requires no one to oversee this.
	+ This Rule change is in line with the Rule 1.2a which declares that players are expected to play in the spirit of the game, by acting with integrity, and brings a consistent approach of trusting the player.

SLIDE 9

* The following changes are all designed to make situations encountered on the golf course less confusing and not lead to unnecessary penalties:
* Under new Rule 14.3 whenever a player must drop a ball in taking relief, either under penalty or free relief, they will always be allowed the choice to substitute a ball or use the original ball.
	+ Put simply, substitution will be allowed whenever a player takes relief under any Rule, when the next stroke must or may be played from somewhere other than where the ball came to rest.
	+ This includes when a player takes relief on the putting green, e.g. from an abnormal course condition and must place their ball on a different spot.
	+ Substitution will not be allowed when the Rules require the ball to be replaced on its original spot.
	+ This will clear up any confusion around whether or when a substitution can take place – The Rules have now decided that there is no need for a different procedure in similar situations. e.g. yes for unplayable but not for relief from animal hole. Now either way, you can use a different ball.
* The new Rules now treat all accidental deflections the same, no matter who or what caused them. Another good example of how the modernisation has made things more practical to apply.
	+ New Rules 10.1a covers fairly striking the ball, but if you have a tendency to hit the ball more than once, the good news is that you no longer incur a one stroke penalty and the ball is simply played as it lies.
	+ Just as there is no penalty if a player’s ball accidentally hits any person, including deflecting off their own body, equipment or caddie or an opponent.
	+ There is no need for a penalty – the ball has usually gone to an area the player did not intend. The outcome is random and unpredictable therefore this spot has to be accepted, good or bad.
	+ In match play, the player no longer the option to cancel the stroke if their ball strikes an opponent.
	+ The Rules do of course cover any deliberate action to stop or deflect a ball.
* Under Rule 4.1 a player will now be allowed to continue using and / or repair any club that has been damaged during a round, no matter how it has been damaged, even if damaged in anger.
	+ A damaged club will only be allowed to be replaced when the player did not cause the damage – so if it has been damaged during the round by an outside influence, by natural forces, or by someone other than the payer or caddie.
	+ This change in the Rules will greatly simplify the complex Rules on damaged clubs.
	+ Prevents players from being disqualified unnecessarily.
	+ Means no-one has to determine whether a damaged club is unfit for play.
	+ Permits the player to continue the entire round with only the 14 clubs that they started with.

SLIDE 10

* An existing Decision has been brought into the new Rules to ensure that players will not be penalised if they make reasonable judgement when estimating or measuring a spot, point, line, area or other location on the golf course.
	+ Therefore, if the player did all that could be reasonably expected in the circumstances to make a prompt and accurate estimation or measurement, this judgement will be upheld even if it is later shown to be wrong by other confirmation (such as video review when golf is televised)
	+ Even if an advantage is gained, the player will get no penalty for small inaccuracies or even if the estimation was significantly wrong but there was no way of doing a better job.
	+ Another example of extending trust in the player’s integrity, which runs throughout the new Rules.
* The New Rules will reverse the current default position on DMDs, so that players will now be allowed to use Distance Measuring Devices – therefore a local rule is no longer required.
	+ Instead, Committees can now introduce a Local Rule to prohibit the use of DMDs.
	+ DMDs have become widespread, and are used globally and in most amateur championships. So it makes sense to reverse the default position, to avoid confusion when the Local Rule has been forgotten to be added.
	+ And it has proved to assist pace of play.
* The new Rules have made a couple of changes that focus on the caddie. One of which we will cover later but a significant change is under new Rule 10.2.
* The current prohibition for caddies (or a players partner) having to move away from behind a player before they make their stroke will be extended so that :
	+ Once the player begins taking a stance for the stroke until the stroke is made, the player’s caddie must not deliberately stand on or close to an extension of the line of play behind the ball.
	+ There has been much debate about caddies lining up players, and we’ve all seen, particularly in the elite game, how this has a major impact on the pace of play.
	+ The new Rule book recognises that a fundamental skill of the game is for players to be able to line up their feet and body accurately on the target line.

SLIDE 11

* Now going to look at Rules changes that affect specific areas of the course.
* The golf course is now split into 5 distinct sections, teeing area, bunkers, penalty areas, the putting green with the remainder of the course being identified as the general area.
* Different rules and relief options now apply dependant on what part of the course the ball lies.
* Rules 2.2c determines where a player’s ball lies – as a ball is always treated as lying in only one area of the course.
	+ If part of the ball Is both in the general area and one of the four specific areas, it is treated as lying in the specific area of the course.
	+ If part of the ball lies in two specific areas of the course, it is treated as lying in the area that come first in this order: penalty area, bunker, putting green.

SLIDE 12

* The teeing area, formally known as the teeing ground is the area where players must play from in starting play of a hole and it is a rectangle that is 2 club lengths deep (remember defined as the longest club in your bag). Defined by the outer limits of the tee markers.
* Other teeing locations, including others on the same hole are deemed part of the general area.
* Tee markers are deemed fixed whenever playing from a teeing area. Elsewhere they are movable obstructions.
* Penalty for playing from a non-conforming tee is the general penalty. Second offence, it’s a DQ – which is a sensible Rule change to avoid unnecessary DQs.
* Whenever a ball lies within the teeing area, even if already in play, the ball may be played from anywhere within the teeing ground and may be teed, without penalty.
	+ This is a good example of a consistency in the Rules for when a ball lies in a certain area of the course.
* Another change is that from 2019 the player with the lowest gross score has the honour from the teeing area, this will include nett and stableford competitions (Rule 6-4b). In match play it is the player who won the previous hole (Rule 6-4a).

SLIDE 13

* The general area is the area of the course that covers all of the course except these four defined areas :
	+ the teeing area of the hole being played,
	+ all penalty areas,
	+ all bunkers and
	+ the putting green of the hole being played.
* It also includes all other teeing locations on the course and all wrong greens

SLIDE 14

* Similar to the new DMD Rule, the default position for relief for an embedded ball will be reversed under the new Rules.
	+ So relief will now be allowed for a ball embedded anywhere (except when embedded in sand) in the general area, (what was known as through the green) without the need for a Local Rule.
	+ A committee can restrict embedded ball for parts of the general area cut to fairway height or less by introducing a Local Rule.
* A ball is embedded when part of the ball is below the level of the ground, as this picture shows. This is a good example of a graphic from the Decisions book having been moved to the Rule book to help make the Rules more easily understood.

SLIDE 15

* In terms of actually taking relief for an embedded ball, we must now refer what we know from the new dropping procedure.
	+ What is the first thing to establish – reference point. This is now clarified as being the spot immediately behind the ball.
	+ Then what to do. We measure our relief area (using our longest club, but not the putter) and measure one club length.
	+ Then what. We drop a ball from knee height within the relief area, not nearer the hole than the reference point.
	+ What if the ball hits my ankle on the way down before touching the ground. We cancel that and do it again.
	+ The ball comes to rest in the relief area and off we go.
* This is a great example of a Rule change that creates consistency – why was it before that the drop had to be as close to spot of the embedded ball.
* And with the reference point now being the spot right behind the ball, this avoids the question of what to do when a ball rolls back into the same pitch mark. This can no longer happen.
* A key reason for this Rule change was that it was felt to be an appropriate exception to the principle of playing the ball as it lies - because having to play a ball that is stuck in soft or wet ground whether on the fairway or in the rough should not be considered part of the normal challenge of playing a golf course.

SLIDE 16

* Now a look at abnormal course condition.
* These are defined as any of 4 defined conditions, an animal hole, ground under repair, an immovable obstruction or temporary water.
* Abnormal course conditions, such as a hole dug in the ground by a squirrel, could occur anywhere on the course, relief is always available:
	+ Except… when the condition is out of bounds, or the ball lies within a penalty area.
	+ Also, when something other than the abnormal course condition makes playing the ball as it lies clearly unreasonable, or when interference only exists because of some unreasonable stance, swing, direction of play or club selection, relief would be denied.
	+ These exceptions are another example of how the wording has been changed in the new Rules to make it much easier to understand.
* So looking at this slide. A section of the general area has been defined as ground under repair defined by the committee. This should be defined by either stakes or preferably by lines. It is recommended that blue or white lines are used.

* + What is the first thing to establish – reference point. This is clarified as being the nearest point of complete relief within the general area.
	+ Then what to do. We measure our one club length relief area.
	+ Then what to do. We drop a ball from knee height within the relief area which must be in the general area, not nearer the hole than the reference point and must provide complete relief from all interference from the GUR.
* If a ball is lost in ground under repair it must be known or virtually certain (which is now defined as 95% likely). The reference point for relief is estimated as the point where the ball last crossed the ground under repair.

SLIDE 17

* An identical procedure now applies to immovable obstructions as they are categorized as Abnormal Course Conditions.
* Remember the reference point is the nearest point of complete relief and not the nicest point of relief.
* Remember when determining the nearest side that players can be right and left handed!!!

SLIDE 18

* A quick review of Ball unplayable – the change in the Rules here is to introduce you to the new terminology associated with a player’s relief options.
* We now have
	+ Stroke and Distance relief – reference point is the spot where the previous stroke was made, which if not known must be estimated
	+ Back-on-the-line relief – the reference point for the one club length relief area is a spot back on the reference line that is not nearer the hole than the spot of the original ball. The location back on line may be anywhere on the course.
	+ Lateral Relief – reference point for the two club lengths relief area is the spot of the original ball – and this is the first mention of a 2 club lengths relief area
* If dropped ball rolls back into its unplayable lie – it would be in play. It is not nearer the hole that the reference point as it is on the reference point.

SLIDE 19

* Another defined area of the course, in 2019, bunkers will be given their very own Rule number - and with that comes some big changes with what players are permitted to do.
* Under new Rule 12, players will be allowed to touch or move loose impediments in a bunker, such as such as stones, leaves, twigs, pine cones etc and will be generally allowed to touch the sand with a hand or club.
	+ However limitations will remain, including prohibiting testing the condition of the sand or touching the sand whilst preparing for the stroke.
* So if players ground their club in front or behind their ball, by taking practice swings or in the backward movement of the club for the swing they will still incur the general penalty.
	+ It is deemed that the challenge of playing from a bunker is the need to play out of the sand, not to play with leaves, stones or other loose impediments in the bunker.
		- However there would still be a one stroke penalty if in removing the loose impediment, the ball moved. The ball must be replaced. (No change in the Rules).
	+ Equally the challenge of playing the stroke is to assess and predict how the sand may affect the stroke.
* Also, worth noting the definition on Bunker has changed to now exclude the wall or lip of the bunker (consisting of soil, grass etc) as not being part of the bunker – same as a stacked turf face of a bunker.
	+ So if the back swing, a player touches the wall or lip of the bunker, there is now no penalty.

SLIDE 20

* The other big change with Bunkers is to do with Unplayable Ball.
* When taking relief for an unplayable ball in a bunker the player will have an extra option allowing relief outside the bunker using the back-on-the-line procedure, but for a total of two penalty strokes (Rule 19.3b).
* This relief will be consistent with other Rules that give the player the extra option to take relief for an additional penalty stroke by playing from back-on-the-line outside the bunker.
	+ Will also always give the player an option, rather than potentially facing an NR, if they make a stroke within the bunker then cannot find a legitimate spot to drop within the bunker that is not nearer the hole.

SLIDE 21

* A look at abnormal course condition in a bunker, such as temporary water in a bunker from which we need to take relief.
* Nearest Point of Complete Relief must be within the bunker.
* If there is no nearest point of complete relief in the bunker, the player may find the point of maximum available relief, and this becomes the reference point for the relief area.
* Dropping from knee height will lessen the chance of a ball plugging in the sand.
* Alternatively, if the player does not want to play from the bunker, there is the option of dropping back-on-the-line outside the bunker under penalty of one stroke.
	+ May be dropped in any area of the course, but this option must be chosen before taking relief in the bunker.

SLIDE 22

* Another on the five defined areas of the course is the Putting Green.
* The Rule changes have a real focus here.
	+ designed to either speed up play and avoid creating penalty traps for the player.
* Under Rule 13.2 Improvement on the putting green is allowed, which means almost any damage on the green can be repaired.
	+ Damage is defined to include all types of damage caused by a person or outside influence, such as ball marks, spike mark damage, indentation from a club or flagstick, animal damage, and even embedded objects.
	+ What is not allowed however, is repair of natural imperfections, damage caused by normal maintenance practices, such as aeration holes, verti-cutting or natural wear of the hole.
	+ Aeration holes could be added as a Local Rule, and area of poor ground can of course be marked as GUR.
* Damage can be repaired by the players hand, foot or other part of the body, a pitch mark repairer, tee or other similar item of normal equipment – and must not unreasonably delay play.
* The philosophy for this change is that the putting green is to allow players to try to have a smooth surface for rolling their ball so this Rule change honours that and means there will be less tension when trying to decide what is a ball mark and what is some other damage.

SLIDE 23

* With an emphasis on helping the speed of play, players will now have the choice of putting with the flagstick in the hole, or have it removed.
* And if the player decides to leave the flagstick in the hole there will be no penalty if a ball played from the putting green hits it.
	+ This will particularly help long putts when no-one is near the hole to attend the flagstick, and maybe even for simple tap-ins.
	+ Remove disputes in match play if an opponent is not keen on attending the flagstick.
* New Rule 13.2a&b are quite lengthy, and this is an example of how some of the new Rules do not look that simplified – but they are certainly more fair and easy to apply.
* Under Rule 13.2c, the Rules have now changed so a ball is treated as holed if it rests against the flagstick and any part of the ball being below the surface of the putting green. So no longer does the whole of the ball need to be below the surface when resting against the flagstick.
	+ Intuitive changes will prevent a number of penalties and disqualifications being applied, such as when a player picks up their ball thinking it had been holed and fails to hole out.

SLIDE 24

* Still on the putting green, there will now be no penalty to anyone, including the player, their opponent or any other player if a ball or ball marker is accidentally moved. The ball is simply replaced.
* This removes the need for the additional Local Rule that many Committees introduced in 2017.
	+ The reason for this Rule change is because the shape, slope and conditions of some putting greens make it very difficult to determine what caused a ball to move. Was it the player, or wind or other natural causes.
	+ Movement is often minimal and often caused by nothing more than the player taking reasonable actions to prepare for the stroke.
	+ Remember this Rule only applies when the accidental movement occurs on the putting green.
* Also, under the same new Rule, 13.1d, there is a change when a ball on the putting green is moved by natural forces, such as wind, or gravity.
* If the ball has been lifted and replaced on its spot, regardless of what caused the ball to move, the ball must always be replaced.
	+ This is another intuitive change that is simply to understand - and will avoid the situation Billy Horschel faced at the Masters when his ball rolled into a water hazard on the 15th hole.
	+ Particularly in high winds, this will be a helpful change to the Rules, as it may allow play to continue when it might otherwise have been unfair or too difficult to do so.
	+ This Rule won’t help a player if they had not lifted the ball first. In this case, if the ball moves by natural forces, it would be played from its new position.
* The new Rules now give additional authority to a caddie. Under Rule 14.1, they are allowed to mark and lift the players ball on the putting green, any time the player is allowed to do so, without needing authorisation each time.
	+ They will continue to be allowed to replace the player’s ball if it was they who had lifted or moved the ball.
	+ This is a straightforward change that protects the player from incurring unnecessary penalties.
* The other big change for caddies (and for partners of the player) is being able to point out a line of play (rather than putt) on the putting green.
	+ This is consistent with the new Rules that permits touching the putting green when repairing any damage caused by a person, provided no improvements to the line of play are made.
	+ They cannot however place down any object on the putting green to show the line of play.

SLIDE 25

* This in example of a Wrong Green.
* Small change within the new Rules that is not seen as a major change and is not highlighted as much, however it is a change that makes things more consistent when it comes to taking relief.
* It is also a terminology change.
	+ Relief from a wrong green. Not a wrong putting green.
	+ Its actually part of the general area, so not classed as a putting green area.
	+ But now, its not just if the ball simply touches a wrong green,
		- A Player has interference if the wrong green affects the players area of intended stance or swing.
		- So relief procedure is the same as an abnormal course condition.
* Another example of a noticeable change in the Rules that has not been mentioned as a Major or Principle change is :
	+ Avoiding a penalty by restoring conditions improved in breach of Rule 8.1a(1) or (2) before making a stroke.
		- In short, if a player removes a out of bounds post then realises this is a breach of the Rule, they can now replace the post back to its original position before making the stroke and avoid penalty.

SLIDE 26

* The final area of the course yet to discuss is what we used to call Water Hazards… now called Penalty Areas.
* Quite a lot has changed as a result; that said, the same basic options for relief under the current Rules for Water Hazards remain:
	+ For example, a penalty area will still be what we currently know as a defined water hazard, whether or not this area contains water,
	+ But in addition, a penalty area can now include any area the Committee chooses to define as penalty areas; eg. deserts, jungle, lava rock fields, or perhaps closer to home, deep areas of gorse.
* There will be yellow penalty areas and red penalty areas and Committees will be given the discretion to mark all penalty areas as red so that lateral relief will always be allowed.
	+ The reason that red penalty areas will be the favoured option is all to do with pace of play.
	+ If a player takes relief from a red penalty area, it means they can play from near the penalty area rather than having to back on the line some distance, and often back to where they made their previous stroke is their only real option.
		- The idea that the area must contain water was seen to be a fairly arbitrary reason to only permit such relief options.
		- Hence the choice now to define other areas that present similar obstacles to existing water hazards.
		- Also marking all penalty areas as red will help players to really nail down knowing their relief options as this is still mystery to some.
	+ On this point, Committees remain free to choose what to mark as a penalty area and also when to mark a penalty area as yellow. We’ll cover this in a bit more detail within the Committee checklist section.
* The other major change to do with what we now call penalty areas is that there will be no longer be any special restrictions when a ball is in one.
* So a player can now touch or move loose impediments, touch the ground with a hand or club, take practice swings – basically everything that you can do in the general area.
	+ Much easier for players to understand, avoids unnecessary penalties and should assist pace of play.
	+ The whole purpose of a penalty area is not to face a more difficult challenge in playing the ball, but to provide the player with practical relief options, because it is often difficult or impossible to play a ball from these areas.

SLIDE 27

* There is NO change to the Rules here in a Yellow Penalty Area in how to apply the Rules.
* Key things to note, if the ball can’t be found in the water hazard, it must be Known or Virtually Certain that the ball came to rest in the penalty area.
* Known or Virtually Certain is the standard for deciding what happened to a player’s ball – which also applies to things like whether a ball moved and what caused it to move.
	+ This standard means more than just possible or probable.
	+ It means that there is evidence, such as someone actually saw what happened to the player’s ball,
	+ And that although they may be some doubt, it is at least 95% likely that the ball came to rest in the penalty area.
* Remember, if a player ball lies in a penalty area, and they have interference from an abnormal course condition, an embedded ball, or an unpayable ball, there are no relief options, other than under new Rule 17, under penalty of 1 stroke.

SLIDE 28

* Looking at the red penalty area, this is the one that most players should now encounter on the golf course. It will be marked by red lines or red stakes.
* The key difference is that the player will have the lateral relief option.
	+ Remember this is 2 club lengths, rather than 1 club length, and the reference point is the estimated point where the original ball last crossed the edge of the penalty area.
* Something else that has changed in the new Rules to do with Red Penalty Areas is the removal of the option to take relief on the opposite side of the penalty area.
	+ This is because the opposite side is generally seen as a complicated option, that many players are not familiar with and seldom use – and can take too long to assess.
	+ It can be seen to serve only an unnecessary option that can end up being too advantageous.
	+ It should also avoid the concern that with expanded use of the red penalty area, players might be able to drop on the green side of the penalty area, without having the challenge of playing over the penalty area.

SLIDE 29

* Finally, within this section, need to mention : “No play zones”.
* This is slightly new concept, although is really an evolution of the play prohibited Rule.
	+ No play zones must be defined as either abnormal course conditions or penalty areas.
	+ And should be clearly marked to distinguish them from normal abnormal course conditions or penalty areas.
* If for example a red penalty area is defined with red paint and red stakes, the no play zone part should have black tops to the red stakes and dotted red lines. Something obvious that the makes the players aware!!
	+ What this means is that the player must not play the ball as it lies. And in the case of a penalty area no play zone, they must take penalty relief.

SLIDE 31

* This part of the presentation is intended to give you (Committees) an overview of the key changes to the Rules that might impact your preparations for competitions in 2019
* Recommend to all Committee members that they read the Committee Procedures (CPs) section of the Official Guide, which can be found online and available in print form from November.

SLIDE 32

* It is important to be aware that the Committee is considered to be ‘the person or group in charge of the competition or the course’.
* Committee members should be identified and made aware of their responsibilities. The Professional, for example, may be considered to be part of the committee and therefore permitted to provide rulings on the day of competition.
* They should be identified to competitors either on a notice board or at the top of a start sheet.

SLIDE 33

* Committees should review the way in which their course is currently marked.

- Looking at the colour of existing penalty areas guidance on changing some can be found in CP 2C(4).

- creating new penalty areas or

- identifying no play zones.

When considering changing the colour of a penalty area, think about whether the playing characteristics of the hole, for example 17th at Sawgrass will be affected.

* Remember, new penalty areas do not necessarily have to contain water. They can be areas of dense gorse or jungle!
	+ And new Penalty areas should not be used to mark areas bordering the course that would otherwise be Out of Bounds.
* No Play Zones may be areas that you wish to protect such as heather regeneration areas.
* Remember that it is not mandatory to change or add any new course markings, but think about what you currently have and how the new Rules can assist play on your golf course.

SLIDE 34

* All competitions that are run should have a set of Terms of the Competition (formally known as Conditions of Competition). We have found that clubs historically have not had these in place.
* These Terms, will focus on the structure of the competition i.e. tees to be used, format, decision of ties
	+ Note that the new Rules state in match play extra holes must be played. May need to change this.
* Other conditions such as conforming driver heads, caddie limitations, transportation and practice should be referenced as a Local Rule. Many of these however are mainly used for elite competitions.

SLIDE 35

* Once the course markings have been determined and you have reviewed the Terms of the Competition you can now look at updating your local rules.
* Good news is that there is a full set of model local rules on the R&A website under section 8 of the committee procedures.
* A number of changes will be required such using the new terminology, updated rule numbers and the removal on unnecessary local rules that have been include in the new rules.
* Give examples from slide.

SLIDE 36

* Give further examples from slide.
* In November a local rule creator and committee toolkit will be available to give you the necessary wording for your score cards.
* Take a look at a scorecard and it is clear that the changes needed are very straightforward – and substantially reduce the number of headings and words needed on the card.

SLIDE 37

* Pace of Play is something that is talked about a lot. The new rules have included many changes to aid players in playing at a quicker pace.
* New Rule 5.6 will encourage Pace of Play and recommends that Players:
	+ Play promptly throughout the round including preparing in advance for each stroke and moving promptly between strokes and going to the next tee
	+ Should make a stroke in no more than 40 seconds, and should be encouraged to play quicker than this
	+ Playing out of turn in stroke play when it is safe to do so “Ready Golf” is also encouraged
* So under Rule 5.6 Committees should consider implementing is a Pace of Play Policy as a Local Rule – this can be introduced to apply penalties for slow play. Guidance can be found in the Committee Procedures on the R&A website.
	+ In practice the nature of such a Policy will be dependent on the number of Committee members available to implement it.
	+ Perhaps a simple Local Rule that establishes a time limit that it considers adequate for players to complete the round and/or a certain number of holes. These time limits will vary depending on the numbers in groups and the form of play. If a group exceeds the prescribed time limit and is out of position on the course, each player in the group is subject to penalty.
	+ Ultimately, a Pace of Play policy should enable Committees to highlight to all Players on the golf course, whatever the type or level of play, what is expected of them.

SLIDE 38

* Under new Rule 1.2, Committees are allowed to adopt a Code of Conduct that:
	+ sets the standards for how players should conduct themselves and
	+ may set penalties less than disqualification for a player’s breach of these standards, which the current Rules don’t allow.
* These can include failure to maintain the course, abuse of equipment or inappropriate language.
* Penalties that can be applied can range from warnings through to one stroke or general penalties or for serious breaches disqualification.
* Previously a Committee could only disqualify a player for a serious breach of etiquette.
	+ This is a useful aid to Rule 1.2 which already consolidates the expected standards of the player, including:
		- Acting with integrity,
		- Showing consideration to others
		- Taking care of the course
	+ Serious misconduct will be met with a DQ penalty.

SLIDE 39

* Please be aware, there is no obligation to introduce any of the following new Rules.
* This is simply an explanation of what they are:
* You will probably have heard of the new local rule option called ‘Alternative to Stroke & Distance’.
* CONGU have ruled that the inclusion of this Local Rule would make the event non-qualifying for handicapping purposes.
* Therefore it is something that a club should only think about for use in general play – so only for social golf for members and visitors, to help speed up play.
* CONGU shall review this throughout 2019.
	+ Cannot be used if you have played a provisional ball or if your ball is within a penalty area.
* Also the new Rules have included an additional form of Stroke Play called “Maximum Score”.
* This Rule 21.2a allows a committee to set a maximum score. CONGU have identified for qualifying competitions that this is 5 over par (effectively nett double bogey). Again, this is not intended for elite level competition.
	+ This is an option to help speed up pace of play of stroke play competitions, and offers the stroke play format to golfers who really only currently like stableford competitions.

SLIDE 40

* There are a number of resources available –
	+ Rules books
	+ R&A website
	+ R&A app.
	+ England Golf have also created a series of emails focusing on key changes. Go onto the England Golf website to subscribe. Through request this has already been sent this to clubs who have forwarded it on to their members.
	+ England Golf website will be updated as and when any new material is available, such as:
		- November 1st, when the printed book of the Official Guide is ready, with Interpretations and Committee Procedures
		- When the Committee Toolkit and Local Rule creator for scorecards is ready
		- EG Hard Card, EG Code of Conduct and EG Pace of Play Policy when ready
	+ Level 1 Rules Schools will be something England Golf will look to help us (a County) to run for their golf clubs and will provide the up to date R&A material to do this.
	+ Level 2 Rules Schools will focus on requalifying existing County Referees. This will be organised by England Golf sometime in the New Year and through 2019.

If you have any questions on the new Rules please email:

Rules2019@englandgolf.org

SLIDE 41

* That concludes presentation.
* Final questions
* Many thanks for attending & safe journey home.