



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

| Category | Sub-category | Topic | Description of change |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|---|--|
| Taking relief (continued) | Dropping procedure | Measuring the size of the relief area where a ball must be dropped and played | New rule: The relief area is measured by measuring 1 or 2 club lengths (which is defined as the longest club the player has during the round, other than a putter). Current rule: Measured by using 1 or 2 club-lengths (with any club the player selects). |
| | Dropping procedure | How to drop a ball | New rule: The ball must be dropped straight down from knee height (the height of the player's knee when in a standing position). Current rule: Stand erect, hold the ball at shoulder height and arm's length. |
| | Lost ball | Time allowed for a ball search | New rule: A ball is lost if not found in three minutes. Current rule: A ball is lost if not found in five minutes. |
| | Substituting ball | Substituting ball when taking relief | New rule: A player may always substitute a ball when taking relief. Current rule: The player must use the original ball when taking free relief (with exceptions); a substituted ball is allowed only when taking penalty relief. |
| | Embedded ball | Taking relief for a ball embedded in its own pitch-mark | New rule: A player may take relief without penalty for an embedded ball anywhere in the "general area" (new term for "through the green"), unless a Local Rule has been adopted restricting relief only to areas cut to fairway height or less. The general area is the new term for "through the green". Current rule: Relief is allowed only in areas cut to fairway height or less, unless a Local Rule has been adopted allowing relief anywhere (except in sand) through the green. |
| Areas of the course | Putting green | Replacing a ball on the putting green when it moves from its spot after it already had been lifted and replaced | New rule: The ball must always be replaced on its original spot, even if it was blown by the wind or moved for no clear reason. Current rule: The ball is replaced only if a player or outside agency caused it to move; otherwise, the ball is played from its new location. |