



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

Category	Sub-category	Topic	Description of change
	Other equipment	Use of distance-measuring devices (DMDs)	New rule: The use of DMDs is allowed, unless a Local Rule has been adopted prohibiting their use. Current rule: DMD use is prohibited, unless a Local Rule has been adopted allowing their use.
Playing a ball	Advice and help	Caddie standing behind a player to help with that player's alignment	New rule: A caddie is not allowed to deliberately stand on or close to the extended line of play behind a player while the player is taking his or her stance until the stroke is made. Current rule: A caddie is allowed to stand on a line behind a player while the player is taking a stance and preparing to play, but must not stand there while the player makes the stroke.
	Advice and help	Caddie lifts and replaces the player's ball on the putting green	New rule: A caddie may lift and replace the player's ball on the putting green without the player's specific authorization to do so. Current rule: 1-stroke penalty if done without the player's specific authorization.
When to play during a round	Pace of play	Recommendations on how to play promptly	New rule: Recommends that players make each stroke in no more than 40 seconds, and usually in less time. Current rule: No recommendations are given.
When to play during a round (continued)	Pace of play	Playing out of turn in stroke play	New rule: No penalty (as today), and "ready golf" is encouraged when it can be done in a safe and responsible way. Current rule: No penalty, but the current Rule is written in a way that may imply that playing out of turn is wrong or is not allowed.
	Pace of play	Other changes to help pace of play	Other new rules: Reduced time for search, allowing more areas to be marked as penalty areas, expanded use of red penalty areas, the simplified dropping procedure and allowing a player to putt with the flagstick in the hole.