



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

Category	Sub-category	Topic	Description of change
	Pace of play	New alternative form of stroke play	<p><b>New rule: A new “Maximum Score” form of stroke play is recognized, where a player’s score for a hole is capped at a maximum score (such as two times par, a fixed number or net double bogey) that is set by the Committee.</b></p> <p>Current rule: In standard individual stroke play, players must hole out at every hole; the only recognized alternative forms of stroke play where holing out is not required are Stableford, Par and Bogey.</p>
<b>Player behavior</b>	Standards of conduct	Playing in the spirit of the game	<p><b>New rule: Explains and reinforces the high standards of conduct expected from players and gives Committees the discretion to disqualify players for serious misconduct.</b></p> <p>Current rule: The Rules set out no standards of conduct, except indirectly in giving Committees discretion to disqualify players for a serious breach of etiquette.</p>
	Standards of conduct	Code of player conduct	<p><b>New rule: Committees are given authority to adopt their own code of player conduct and to set penalties for the breach of the standards in that code.</b></p> <p>Current rule: Committees may disqualify players for a serious breach of etiquette, but are not allowed to impose lesser penalties such as a 1-stroke penalty or a loss of hole/2-stroke penalty.</p>
<b>Player behavior (continued)</b>	Integrity	Eliminating announcement requirements before lifting a ball under certain Rules	<p><b>New rule: When a player has good reason to mark and lift a ball to identify it, check for damage or see if it lies in a condition where relief is allowed (such as to see whether it is embedded), the player is no longer required first to announce to another player or his or her marker the intent to do so or to give that person an opportunity to observe the process.</b></p> <p>Current rule: Before lifting in these cases, the player must announce to another player or the marker that he or she is doing so and allow that person to observe the process.</p>