

# New Rules for 2019

1. Golfers can now search for a lost ball for only 3 minutes.
2. Golfers will now drop from knee height.
3. You can take an unplayable lie in a bunker with a two-stroke penalty.
4. Double-hits are no longer penalized.
5. Loose impediments can be moved in bunkers and other hazards (now known as penalty areas).
6. Touching the sand in a bunker before/after a shot is not a penalty, so long as it's not immediately in front of or behind the ball. Or used to aid in the stroke, i.e., testing the sand.
7. Hitting the flag stick with a putt from the green is not a penalty.
8. Spike marks and all other green damage can be repaired.
9. Embedded ball relief everywhere: If a golfer's ball is embedded in the ground, no matter where it is on the golf course (outside of a hazard or penalty area), you can remove it and then get a free drop.
10. If a ball moves while on the green, it can be replaced penalty-free: Presuming the golfer did not strike the ball.
11. Balls accidentally moved on the putting green can be replaced penalty-free: Similar to the above, a golfer who accidentally moves the ball when they fumble with a coin or their shoes or whatever won't be penalized.
12. Touching the ground in a penalty area is OK: Golfers had previously incurred a one-stroke penalty for grounding their club in what was known as a water hazard or bunker.
13. If a golfer's ball hit themselves or their clubs, there's no penalty.
14. A ball wedged between the flag stick and the edge of the cup counts as holed so long as the ball is beneath the surface of the green.
15. Use your longest non-putter club for a drop: When taking relief, you'll use the longest non-putter club in your bag, which is your driver, to give up to 48 inches of relief.
16. No penalty for moving a ball by accident during search: The ball will simply be replaced as it was found, and the golfer will play on.
17. Golfers will take a complete relief when their ball is on another green, ball and stance.
18. Distance measuring devices can always be used unless specifically barred from a competition.
19. You can play with a damaged club but cannot replace the club if the damage was done on purpose.
20. A player can mark and lift ball for purposes of identification without alerting playing partners. Ball must be replaced as originally found.