

Summary of Major Rules Changes for 2019

These are some of the most significant **Rules Changes for 2019**. Print them and carry with you.

New Definition: The **general area** covers the entire course except for the teeing area of the hole you are playing, all penalty areas, all bunkers, and the putting green of the hole you are playing.

1. The search for your ball is now limited to **3 min. instead of 5 min.**
2. If you move the ball while searching for it, there is **NO Penalty**...just put it back where it was.
3. Embedded Ball relief is granted anywhere in the general area; **lift, clean and drop.**
4. A "club length" is now the **longest club in the bag**, except the putter.
5. Drop the ball from **Knee High**.
6. If your ball hits you or your equipment, there is **no penalty**.
7. Double hitting a ball will only count 1 stroke, there is **no penalty**.
8. Touching the sand in a trap is OK as long as it is away from the ball and incidental.
9. Loose impediments can be removed in all areas including **bunkers and penalty areas (red or yellow stakes)**. If the ball moves it must be replaced and incurs **1 stroke penalty**.
10. For an unplayable ball in a bunker, your options are: A. Drop in the bunker, **1 stroke**. B. Hit from the original spot, **1 stroke**. C. Drop out of the bunker in line with the flag, **2 strokes**.
11. You can now **ground your club in a penalty area**, even the water.
12. If the ball moves on the green, after marking and replacing it, the ball **must be returned to the original location**.
13. If you cause your ball to move on the green, replace it with **No penalty**.
14. Repairs to the green are **without penalty**.
15. You **cannot** lay the club on the green for alignment or have someone else stand behind you to line you up.
16. You can now **leave the flag in** while putting on the green.
17. If any part of your ball comes to rest with part of the ball below the lip of the cup, it is **considered holed**.

For a more detailed discussion of these and other rules changes, go to:

<http://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/rules-hub/rules-modernization/major-changes/major-changes.html> or view the video at: <https://youtu.be/chPOTfLUHCO>.