

SOME OF THE MAIN CHANGES TO THE RULES OF GOLF FROM JANUARY 2019

1. TIME ALLOWED TO SEARCH FOR YOUR BALL

Reduced from 5 minutes to **3 minutes**. After 3 minutes from start of search the ball is lost.

2. DROPPING A BALL

Drop the ball from knee high so that it falls through the air and does not touch any part of the player's body or equipment before it hits the ground. **(If you drop incorrectly you can correct your error before the stroke without penalty)** Must remain in relief area (generally one club length no nearer hole).

3. WHERE A DROPPED BALL MUST COME TO REST

When a ball is dropped it must come to rest in the relief area (normally 1 club length not nearer the hole).

4. CLUB USED FOR MEASURING

Use the longest club in the player's bag, **EXCEPT** the putter.

5. EMBEDDED BALL

Free relief both on the fairway and in the rough (general area). There is no relief from embedded ball in bunkers and penalty areas.

6. DOUBLE HIT

There is no penalty and the ball is played as it lies.

7. BALL HITS PLAYER OR EQUIPMENT

There is no penalty and the ball is played as it lies.

8. BALL MOVED DURING SEARCH

No Penalty and the Ball **MUST** be replaced in the same lie.

9. DISTANCE MEASURING DEVICES (DMS)

A DMS may be used but without any slope function turned on.

10. DAMAGE TO PUTTING GREEN

Damage to putting green (spike marks, animal hoofs etc) may be repaired (***EXCEPT*** aeration holes, natural imperfections or water).

11. MOVED BALL REPLACED ON PUTTING GREEN

If a ball that is marked, lifted and replaced on the putting green is then moved by the wind, water, gravity (natural forces) to another location – the ball must be replaced on the original spot without penalty. If not replaced 2 stroke penalty (playing from a wrong place)

12. BALL ACCIDENTALLY MOVED ON PUTTING GREEN

No penalty and the ball must be replaced.

13. PUTTING WITH FLAGSTICK IN THE HOLE

You may now take any putt on (or off) the green with the flagstick in the hole. If the ball is at rest against the flagstick **AND** part of the ball is below the surface of the putting green the ball is holed. If none of the ball is below the surface and the ball moves when the flagstick is removed the **ball must be replaced on the lip** of the hole, without penalty, **even if the ball falls into the hole** when the flagstick is removed.

14. PENALTY AREAS (FORMERLY WATER HAZARDS)

You may now ground your club, remove loose impediments (loose natural objects) and take practice swings in a Penalty Area. If the ball moves while removing a loose impediment, the player incurs a one stroke penalty and must replace the ball. (NOTE: bunkers are **NOT** penalty areas).

15. BUNKERS

Loose Impediments (e.g. leaves stones etc) may be removed. If the ball moves while removing a loose impediment, the player incurs a one stroke penalty and must replace the ball.

If your ball is unplayable you may drop a ball outside the bunker on the line back from the hole for a 2-stroke penalty.

Have a copy of the Player's Rule Book in your bag for reference they are free and available in the clubhouse.

Please play "Ready Golf" when it is safe to do so – if you are ready play.