

2019 NEW RULES OF GOLF

Ball at Rest

Ball Moved During Search: No penalty for accidentally moving your ball during search. This is limited if you accidentally step on your ball, or move it if you are using a club to move grass, leaves etc. If the ball moves once you have identified it, you will incur a penalty stroke, replace the ball where it originally was and play your stroke.

No Penalty for Moving Ball on the Putting Green: No penalty for accidentally moving your ball or ball-marker on the putting green.

Replacing Ball When Original Spot is Not Known: When the original location of your ball is not known, replace it on its estimated spot. No Closer to the hole.

Ball in Motion

Ball in Motion Accidentally Deflected: No penalty if your ball in motion is accidentally deflected by you, your equipment, or your caddie. Please note **accidentally**. A deliberate second stroke as being shown on YouTube, will count as a stroke.

Taking Relief

Measuring the Size of the Relief Area Where a Ball Must Be Dropped and Played: Your relief area for dropping a ball is a fixed size of either one or two club-lengths **using the longest club in your bag, other than your putter**. As a point of reference, a free drop gets one club length relief, any relief where you incur a penalty gets two club lengths relief.

New Procedure for Dropping a Ball: Your ball must be let go from knee height and fall through the air without touching any part of your body or equipment. If you drop from shoulder height, you must correctly re-drop from knee height. Failure to correct drop, will result in a 1-stroke penalty.

Where a Dropped Ball Must Come to Rest: Your ball must come to rest in the relief area where it was dropped, or else it must be redropped. This means within the one/two club length drop area and must not go forward. You cannot re-drop, just because you do not like the lie you got after the first drop.

Fixed Distances to be Used for Measuring: A fixed distance of the longest club in your bag, other than your putter, is used for measuring.

Time for Search Before Ball is Lost: Your ball is lost if not found in three minutes (rather than the previous five minutes). This means 3 minutes from the time you start your search.

Relief for an Embedded Ball: Relief allowed without penalty for an embedded ball anywhere (**except in sand, see rule for taking relief in sand**) in the "general area" (a new term for "through the green").

Procedure for Taking Lateral Relief: In taking lateral relief, drop within two club-lengths of where your ball entered the penalty area. The size of a club-length is always measured using the longest club in your bag, other than your putter. **Please note entered, not estimated distance of your shot or ideal yardage for the next shot!!!!**

Procedure for Taking Back-on-the-Line Relief: One of your options for relief from either a red or yellow penalty area is called back-on-the-line relief. You can drop as far back as you like, in line with the flag.

Areas of the Course

When to Replace a Ball That Moves on the Putting Green: After your ball has been lifted and replaced, if it then moves, always replace it on its original spot even if it was blown by the wind or moved for no clear reason.

Repairing Damage on the Putting Green: Repair of almost any damage is allowed on the putting green (including spike marks and animal damage). Please be mindful of time. Repairing every little imperfection on 50 ft putt would not be the way to go.

Touching Line of Play on a Putting Green: No penalty for touching your line of play on the putting green so long as doing so **does not improve the conditions** for your stroke.

Ball Played from Green Hits Unattended Flagstick in Hole: No penalty if your ball played from the putting green hits the unattended flagstick in the hole. Please utilize this on the long lag putts. It will help us speed up play.

Touching Loose Impediments or Ground in a Penalty Area: No penalty for moving loose impediments, touching the ground, or grounding your club in a penalty area. However, if your ball moves during moving loose impediments, you will incur a penalty stroke, replace the ball where it originally was and play your next shot.

Elimination of Opposite Side Relief for Red Penalty Areas:

Relief from a red penalty area no longer allowed on the opposite side from where the ball last entered the penalty area. You must drop on the side of entry. Very rare occurrence.

Touching Sand in a Bunker: Relaxed Rules relating to touching the ground in a bunker. This means accidentally during a practice swing or leaning on your club. It does not mean, moving sand from behind your ball with your club while practicing a back swing and building a sand tee.

Unplayable Ball in Bunker: Relief allowed outside a bunker for an unplayable ball for two penalty strokes. **PLEASE NOTE: You must drop behind the bunker, keeping it in play, not sideways. The bunker must be kept in play. You can also drop in the bunker for a penalty of one stroke.**

Equipment

Use of Clubs Damaged During Round: A club damaged during a round can continue to be used, even if you damaged it in anger.

Adding Clubs to Replace a Club Damaged During Round: You are not allowed to replace a damaged club during a round if you were responsible for the damage.

New Local Rule

Local Rule: Alternative to Stroke and Distance: A new Local Rule provides an alternative to stroke-and-distance relief for a ball that is lost outside a penalty area or out of bounds. This rule relates to OB and balls lost in trees, tall grass etc.

This will not be in play during official Dost Tournaments. Players will be required to go back to point of the last stroke, and replay stroke with a penalty of 1 stroke. If the player loses the ball again, then and only then, they will drop at the POINT OF ENTRY and, incur a penalty stroke and play from that point. Example: Tee shot OB, 3 of the tee, OB again. Drop at point of entry of second ball and play 5.

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