



The 20 Most Important Changes to the Rules of Golf 2019

1. Search Time - Reduced from 5 minutes to 3 minutes.
2. Ball Moved During Search - Replace no penalty.
3. Embedded Ball - Free relief anywhere through the course.
4. Measuring a Drop - Use longest club (except putter).
5. Dropping - Drop from knee height rather than shoulder.
6. Taking stance on wrong green is not permitted.
7. Ball Unintentionally Hits Player or Equipment - No penalty.
8. Double Hit - No penalty, now only counts as the 1 stroke.
9. Touching sand in bunker incidentally is permitted.
10. Loose impediments can be removed anywhere including hazards.
11. Dropping a Ball Out of Bunker - 2 penalty strokes.
12. Water Hazards - Now called "penalty areas."
13. Touching Ground in Penalty Area - No penalty.
14. Ball Moves on Green After Being Marked - Replace without penalty.
15. Ball Accidentally Moved on Putting Green - Replace no penalty.
16. All damage to green can now be repaired.
17. Positioning a club for alignment is not permitted.
18. Caddie assisting with alignment is now not permitted.
19. Putting with flag stick in hole is now permitted.
20. Ball wedged against flag stick and side of hole is now deemed as holed.