

MODERNIZING GOLF'S RULES: KEY CHANGES

The R&A and the USGA released a preview of golf's proposed Rules, which are due to take effect on January 1, 2019. Here are five of the most significant changes.

How to Drop a Ball

You will be able to drop a ball from any distance above the ground, provided it doesn't touch anything and falls through the air when dropped.



Time for Ball Search



Repairing Spike Marks



Leaving Flagstick in the Hole

If you make a stroke from on the green and your ball hits the flagstick in the hole, there will be no penalty.



Relaxed Rules in Penalty Area

You are allowed to ground your club and move loose impediments in a penalty area (an expanded concept of water hazards).



Tell us what you think about the proposed Rules changes.

We welcome feedback at usga.org and randa.org through August 31, 2017. The new Rules will go into effect January 1, 2019.

