

MODERNIZING GOLF'S RULES: STROKE AND DISTANCE

We recognize that the requirement to go back to where you last played, such as when you lose your ball or hit it out of bounds, creates pace-of-play issues. We continue to look for an alternative that is effective and consistent with the principles of the game. All of the following possible alternatives would involve a two-stroke penalty.

The first step for any of the below is to estimate* either where the ball is lost or went out of bounds. The example below is for a lost ball: If the ball was hit out of bounds the same alternatives would apply, using the spot where the ball crossed the out of bounds line.

Possible Alternatives

- A** Drop at or near the estimated spot.
- B** Drop in the nearest playable location.
- C** Drop at the nearest edge of the fairway.
- D** Drop at or behind the line taken at a right angle from the hole and the estimated spot.
- E** Drop on the line of flight.

*A significant difficulty with any estimate is the lack of an obvious reference point when your ball is lost. We continue to explore alternatives.

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 on January 1, 2019.

