

GOLF'S NEW RULES: KEY CHANGES

The R&A and the USGA have released golf's new Rules, effective January 1, 2019. Here are five of the most significant changes.

How to Drop a Ball

Drop your ball from knee height into the relief area.



Time for Ball Search



Three minutes is now the maximum allotted time to search for a ball, rather than the previous five minutes

Repairing Spike Marks



You are allowed to repair spike marks and any other damage on the putting green, caused by a person, an animal or maintenance practices.

Leaving Flagstick in the Hole

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



Relaxed Rules in Penalty Area

You are allowed to ground your club and move loose impediments in penalty areas, an expanded concept of water hazards that does not include bunkers.



For more information on golf's new Rules, please visit usga.org or randa.org.