

GOLF ASSOCIATION - COMPARISON OF CURRENT RULES TO 2019*

On the Tee	2018	2019
I make a stroke (intent) on my tee shot, graze the ball and it falls off the tee but remains in the teeing ground. I pick it up and re-tee it.	One stroke penalty (stroke and distance).	No penalty.
On the Green	2018	2019
I tap down a clear spike mark on my line of putt.	General penalty.	No penalty.
I strike the flagstick after a 3-foot putt and the ball goes in the hole.	General penalty and ball is holed.	No penalty.
I hit my putt too hard and it strikes the flagstick which has been removed from the hole and is laying on the green. (Unintentional)	General penalty. Play it as it lies.	No penalty. Play it as it lies.
My caddie touches my line of putt to show me where to hit my putt.	General penalty.	No penalty.
While reading my putt I walk to the half-way point of my putt and lightly touch the green on my line of putt.	General penalty.	No penalty.
My caddie marks and lifts my ball (without my express authority).	One stroke penalty.	No penalty.
While waiting my turn to putt, I mark and lift my ball while another ball is in motion rolling toward my ball.	General penalty.	No penalty.
I mistakenly mark and lift my opponent's ball on the putting green.	One stroke penalty.	No penalty.
After marking and replacing my ball on the green, the ball moves ever so slightly due to gravity.	Depends on committee verdict on what caused ball to move.	No penalty. Replace.
After marking and replacing my ball on the green, the wind moves it.	No penalty. Play it as it lies.	No penalty. Replace.
In a Bunker	2018	2019
I remove a loose impediment from a bunker in which my ball lies.	General penalty.	No penalty.
My ball is in a bunker. I touch the sand with my club several feet away from my ball and not in a manner that tests the condition of the bunker.	General penalty.	No penalty.
My ball comes to rest in a very bad lie in a bunker. I want to take the ball out of the bunker and drop behind the bunker for a 2-stroke penalty.	Not allowed. DQ for serious breach.	Allowed.
In a Water Hazard/Penalty Area	2018	2019
I ground my club in a water hazard/penalty area.	General penalty.	No penalty.
While playing out of the water hazard/penalty area on the 18th hole at Harbor Town, I touch a reed that is loose on my backswing.	General penalty.	No penalty.
During a round I play a practice stroke from a water hazard/penalty area.	General penalty.	No penalty.
My ball is in a lateral water hazard and I want to drop the ball on the opposite margin of where it last crossed the margin of the hazard.	Allowed.	Not allowed unless local rule in effect.
Clubs	2018	2019
In anger, I slam my putter against my foot bending the shaft slightly. I tap in a short putt with the damaged club and continue to use it.	Disqualification.	No penalty.
I break my six iron on my follow through while playing a stroke.	I can replace the club.	I cannot replace the club.
My partner and I share 14 clubs during a four-ball competition.	Allowed.	Allowed.
A fellow competitor throws a club in anger, striking my bag and breaking my wedge.	I can replace the club.	I can replace the club.
Accidental Situations	2018	2019
After marking and replacing my ball on the green, I <i>accidentally</i> move it with the head of my putter.	1 stroke penalty, unless local rule in effect. Replace.	No penalty. Replace.
My ball in motion <i>accidentally</i> hits the foot of my caddie who is attending the flagstick.	General penalty. Play it as it lies.	No penalty. Play it as it lies.
Accidental Situations (continued)	2018	2019

*Note: Subject to Change

Colorado Golf Association, February, 2018

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I <i>accidentally</i> kick my ball during search.	1 stroke penalty, unless ball is covered by leaves in a hazard or in GUR. Replace.	No penalty. Replace.
While playing a short shot out of the rough I <i>accidentally</i> strike the ball more than once.	Stroke counts + penalty stroke. Play ball where it lies.	Stroke counts. No penalty. Play ball where it lies.
Dropping	2018	2019
I drop my ball from knee height.	Must redrop.	Ball is in play.
I drop my ball within 1 club length of my nearest point of relief. The ball lands within the clublength but rolls out of the 1 club-length area but less than 2 club lengths, no closer to hole.	Ball is in play.	Ball must be redropped.
I measure my dropping area with my long putter and drop my ball more than a driver's length from my nearest point of relief.	No penalty.	General penalty.
I drop my ball from shoulder height.	Ball is in play.	Must be redropped.
After a drop and re-drop my ball rolls closer to the hole than my nearest point of relief.	Place on spot it landed on 2nd drop.	Place on spot it landed on 2nd drop.
Relief Situations	2018	2019
My ball comes to rest in a hole dug by a dog.	No relief.	Free relief.
My ball comes to rest in casual water. The ball is visible and easily retrievable. I don't want to get my new shoes wet so I substitute a ball when taking relief.	General penalty.	No penalty.
My ball embeds in the rough.	No relief unless local rule is in effect.	Free relief. Can drop the ball within 1 club length.
I mark and lift my ball for identification and don't announce my intent nor give my fellow competitors the opportunity to observe.	One stroke penalty.	No penalty.
My ball comes to rest close to, but not on, a wrong putting green. In order to play my next stroke I will be standing on the wrong putting green.	No relief.	Free relief.
		Ball is NOT in the bunker.
My ball imbeds in the earthen "lip" of a bunker.	Ball is in the bunker. No relief.	Free relief under embedded ball rule.
Conduct of Competition	2018	2019
In stroke play, my group decides to play "ready golf" to catch up after a lost ball.	Disapproving looks from the committee.	Committee applauds!
The committee uses USGA Tournament Management Software (Golf Genius) as an electronic scorecard. The application allows players to sign and attest the card electronically.	Not allowed.	Permitted.
A desert golf course marks the desert area surrounding every hole as a lateral hazard.	Not allowed. Not a water hazard.	Allowed. Penalty area.
I use my distance measuring device in my club championships.	DQ unless local rule in place.	No penalty unless local rule prohibits.
Miscellaneous	2018	2019
I find my ball after 3 minutes but before 5 minute search.	No penalty.	Ball is lost.
I play a stroke from off the putting green and my ball strikes my opponent or his/her equipment.	I have the option to play the ball as it lies or replay without penalty.	No penalty. Play the ball as it lies.
My caddie stands behind me to line me up on a shot off of the green and moves before I play the stroke.	No penalty.	General penalty.