

Overview - New Rules of Golf to commence 2019 (January 1st).

Rule simplification is a big bonus, with most rules as we understand them remaining close to the same.

Below are some generalities of the new rules of golf as a player overview and are introductory only. Actual player rules are contained in the official document 'Players Edition' of the Rules of Golf 2019. Understood these Rules will have explanatory diagrams as well.

1. – Changes in terminology or definitions.

- (a) **'Through the green'** becomes **'Area of the Course'**.
- (b) **'Hazards'** becomes **'Penalty Areas'** – Rule 17.
thus may include areas other than water. (Red staked).
Note – Existing option opposite side of water hazard (Penalty Area) rule removed, unless a Club local rule inserted in specific cases.
- (c) **'Bunker'** Hazard becomes just a **'Bunker'** (Own Rule 12.)
- (d) **'Drop Zone'** (any ball drop area under a Rule) becomes a **'Relief Area'**.
- (e) **'Casual Water'** becomes **'Temporary Water'**.
- (f) **'Through the Green'** becomes **'General Area'**
(whole area of the course, except Tee of hole, Green of hole, all Bunkers, all Penalty Areas)
- (g) **'No Play Zones'** no play and must take relief.
e.g. Greenkeeper Nursery.
- (h) **'Rub of the Green'** has been dropped altogether.

2.- These in general, aimed at improving Pace of Play.

- (a) Player given 40 seconds to play their shot.
- (b) Lost ball search time reduced from 5 minutes to 3 minutes.
- (c) Ball Drop (returning a ball into play) will be dropped from a minimum of knee height.
Note – Loss of two club length ball run – ball must remain in 'Relief Area'.
- (d) Honour system remains, but with acknowledgment and safety, players may play out of turn. (Ready Golf)
- (e) No penalty, putting on green with flag stick unattended and may be holed.
- (f) May lift loose impediments anywhere on the course, but still cannot move your ball.
- (g) An imbedded ball may be lifted without penalty anywhere on the course except Bunkers and Penalty Areas.
- (h) Use of club lengths as relief measurements remain, except cannot use the putter.

3. – Other

- (a) No penalty, for accidentally moving your own ball on the green, must be replaced.
- (b) No penalty, repair any damage on a green even on line of put. (with conditions Rule 13)
- (c) No penalty for accidentally moving your own ball during a ball search, but must be replaced as it was.
- (d) No penalty, ball hitting self and equipment, play as it lies.
- (e) No penalty, for multiple hits of a ball during a single stroke.
- (f) No Penalty, for grounding club in a Penalty Area (water hazard), but still a penalty in a Bunker.

4. - New Rule 18 Option – Lost Ball or Out of Bounds.

Provision for a Club Local Rule option, where you may play a ball drop in a 'Relief Area' as identified by a lost ball or out of bounds point and the fairway, no closer to the hole for a penalty of 2 strokes.

New Rule 19 Option – Unplayable Ball in Bunker.

Ball drop (2c above) outside of Bunker, on line with pin, any distance for a 2 stroke penalty.

Videos are being produced with explanation along with demonstrations and are recommended for your best viewing on **official** web sites :-

St. Andrews – www.rules.golf and USGA – www.usga.org/rules and Golf Australia - www.golf.org.au/newrules

The new rules have been finalised and is understood an official facilitation push will begin in August.

In the meantime, until January, we will continue with the old rules.

C.Q. Vets Software Support.