# 2019 Rules of Golf Summary

Presented at the Annual General Meeting 2018
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## Topics

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- Terminology Changes
- Areas of the Course
- Taking Relief
- Searching for a Ball
- Putting Green
- Penalty Areas
- Bunkers
- Competition Format
- Resources

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## Some Terminology Changes

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| Old term | New Term |
|---|---|
| Through the Green | General Area |
| Casual water | Temporary Water |
| Water Hazard | Penalty Area |
| Outside Agency | Outside Influence |
| Abnormal Ground Condition | Abnormal Course Condition |
| Nearest Point of Relief | Nearest Point of Complete Relief |
| 2 Stroke Penalty | General Penalty |

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## Areas of the Course

The **general area** covers the entire area of the course except for the following:

❶ The teeing area ❸ Penalty areas
❷ Bunkers ❹ The putting green

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## Relief Area

- Defined as the Area where the player must drop a ball.

  - Reference point.
    - The point from which the size of the relief is measured.
  - Size.
    - This will be one or two club lengths.
  - Limits.
    - No nearer the hole.
    - No interference from condition etc.

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## Relief from Abnormal Course Condition
### (Free relief example)

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## Dropping Procedure

- Drop from knee height.
- Drop one or two club lengths from Reference Point.
- Ball needs to be dropped and come to rest in Relief Area.
- Re-dropped if hits player or object on the way down.
- No re-drop if hits player or object after hitting the ground and remaining in the Relief Area.

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## Dropping Procedure

- Diagram showing correct dropping procedure.
- Taken from 2019 Rule Book - Rule 14.3 Page 80.
- Ball dropped twice and not remaining in Relief Area is then placed.



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## Club Length

- Defined as the Longest Club in your Bag EXCEPT the Putter.
- In practice, can use any club to measure (except putter) because it will not be longer than the longest club in your bag.
- Whenever the Rules refer to a Club Length, this is the longest club in YOUR bag.
- Can no longer borrow clubs for measurement.

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**Rule 7**
**Ball Search: Finding & Identifying**

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- No penalty if ball moved by player during search.
- Ball replaced on estimated spot.
- Time to search for a ball reduced to **3 minutes**.
- Balls found outside this period are lost.
- Players can now return and play a Provisional Ball within the 3 minute search period.

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**Rule 13**
**Putting Green**

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- Can repair damage on the putting green caused by person or outside influence.
- Accidental movement of ball or ball marker no longer penalised.
- No longer penalised if holing ball from putting green with flagstick in the hole.
- Ball is holed when any part of it lies beneath the surface

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**Rule 17**
**Penalty Areas**

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- Can remove Loose Impediments (see Rule 15.1) anywhere from on or off the course which includes **Bunkers and Penalty Areas.**
  - Unattached objects such as Stones, Loose Grass, Leaves, Branches and Sticks etc.
  - Now includes 'Clumps of compacted soil and Spider Webs.
- Can ground club lightly in Penalty Area.
- Can take a practice swing in Penalty Area.

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## Rule 17
## Relief in Penalty Area

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PLAYER OPTIONS WHEN BALL IN PENALTY AREA

- Play the ball as it lies.
- Stroke and Distance Penalty.
- Lateral Penalty Relief (red marked areas only).
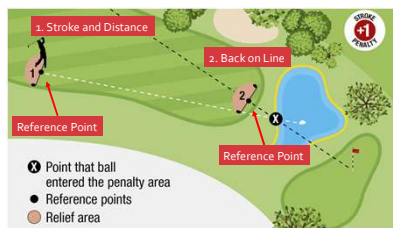
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## Relief Options for ball in Penalty Area (Yellow)

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1. Stroke and Distance
2. Back on Line
STROKE +1 PENALTY
Reference Point
Reference Point

- **X** Point that ball entered the penalty area
- ● Reference points
- ○ Relief area

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## Bunkers

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- May touch or move loose impediments.
- May touch sand BUT not to test the condition of the same to learn information about the stroke.
- May NOT touch sand in a bunker with club.
  - When making a Practice Swing.
  - Grounding the club in front or behind the ball.
  - Making the backswing for a stroke.
- Additional Relief Option.
  - Dropping OUTSIDE the bunker under 2 penalty strokes.

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## Relief Options in Bunker
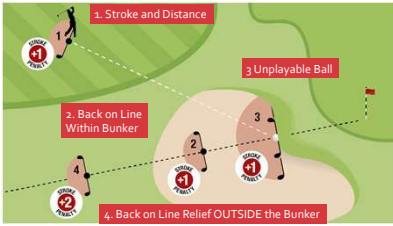
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1. Stroke and Distance
3 Unplayable Ball
2. Back on Line Within Bunker
4. Back on Line Relief OUTSIDE the Bunker

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## Standards of Player Conduct

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**Standards for all players enshrined within the Rules.**

Rule 1.2a Conduct Expected of All Players.
- Acting with integrity.
- Showing consideration to others.
- Taking good care of the course.

Rule 1.2b Code of Conduct.
- Committees may set its own standards of player conduct adopted as a Local Rule.
- Code to include penalties set by the Committee for breach of its standards.

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## Where to go from here?

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- Rules of Golf Player's Edition.
- R&A/USGA Website.
- Club Noticeboards.
- England Golf – Rules Guru.
- Mobile Applications.
- Organise a 2019 Rules Seminar within your own club.



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