

THE 20 MOST IMPORTANT CHANGES TO THE RULES OF GOLF 2019



- 1 - **SEARCH TIME** - reduced from 5 minutes to 3 minutes
- 2 - **BALL MOVED DURING SEARCH** - replace, no penalty
- 3 - **EMBEDDED BALL** - free relief anywhere through the green
- 4 - **MEASURING A DROP** - use longest club (except putter)
- 5 - **DROPPING** - drop from knee height rather than shoulder
- 6 - **TAKING STANCE ON WRONG GREEN** - is not permitted
- 7 - **BALL UNINTENTIONALLY HITS PLAYER OR EQUIPMENT** - no penalty
- 8 - **DOUBLE HIT** - no penalty, now only counts as the 1 stroke
- 9 - **TOUCHING SAND IN A BUNKER INCIDENTALLY** - is permitted
- 10 - **LOOSE IMPEDIMENTS** - can be moved anywhere, including hazards
- 11 - **DROPPING A BALL OUT OF THE BUNKER** - 2 penalty strokes
- 12 - **WATER HAZARDS** - now called "penalty areas"
- 13 - **TOUCHING GROUND IN PENALTY AREA** - no penalty
- 14 - **BALL MOVES ON GREEN AFTER BEING MARKED** - replace without penalty
- 15 - **BALL ACCIDENTALLY MOVED ON PUTTING GREEN** - replace, no penalty
- 16 - **ALL DAMAGE TO GREEN** - can now be repaired
- 17 - **POSITIONING A CLUB FOR ALIGNMENT** - is not permitted
- 18 - **CADDIE ASSISTING WITH ALIGNMENT** - is now not permitted
- 19 - **PUTTING WITH FLAG STICK IN THE HOLE** - is now permitted
- 20 - **BALL WEDGED AGAINST FLAG STICK AND SIDE OF HOLE** - is deemed as holed