



## Rule of the Month

September 1, 2018

### Change Is Good

Beginning this month, the focus of the Rule of the Month articles will change as we begin to explore the changes to the Rules of Golf that become effective on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019. For your convenience, the 2019 version of the Rules can be viewed, downloaded and printed at [USGA.org](http://USGA.org).

As long as there have been Rules, there have always been Rules that many golfers have considered senseless and not necessary. Yet, the complexity of the game, played outdoors over a wide variety of terrain and conditions, require in-depth detail to cover the multitude of possible scenarios to level the playing field and to anticipate where players might gain an advantage or be disadvantaged. The USGA and the R&A, the two governing bodies for the game worldwide, have spent more than five years on a joint project to modernize and simplify the Rules. A tremendous amount of effort and cooperation have gone into this project. It was a complex project as it was important to maintain the core values, integrity and traditions that make golf the wonderful game that we all cherish. As we enter into a new world of Rules, we applaud the dedication and seriousness of purpose that the USGA and R&A put forth in their efforts.

This month we highlight some of the major changes.

### Questions: True/False

1. When a player is required to drop a ball, it must be dropped from knee height or higher.
2. If a stroke from the putting green accidentally hits the flagstick in the hole, there is no penalty.
3. After marking, lifting and replacing the ball on the putting green, wind blows it to a new location. The ball must be played from its new location.
4. There is no penalty for double hitting the ball during a stroke.
5. Unless prohibited by a Local Rule, an embedded ball may be lifted and dropped anywhere on the course without penalty.
6. A ball must be treated as lost if not found within 3 minutes of the time the player or caddie begins to search for it.
7. There is a one-stroke penalty when a player or the player's equipment is accidentally hit by his or her golf ball after a stroke.
8. A player must not touch the ground with a club prior to making a stroke in a penalty area (formally known as a water hazard).
9. In a competition with no Local Rules in place, one option for a ball that comes to rest out of bounds is to drop within two club-lengths of where it crossed the out of bounds line with a two stroke penalty.
10. A player may lift a ball to identify it without announcing their intentions to another player.

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