

2019 USGA Major rules changes

New rules

Definition – Club length is longest club in player's bag except the putter

Rule 7 – Ball moved during search – no penalty and must be replaced

Rule 10 – Double hit – counts as 1 stroke and play it where it lands

Rule 10 – Laying club on the ground for alignment purposes is not permitted

Rule 10 – Caddie standing behind player to assist with alignment not permitted

Rule 11 – Ball hits player or own equipment – no penalty if accidental

Rule 12 – Touching sand incidentally is permitted

Rule 13 – Ball moves on the green after being marked and replaced – must be replaced at original spot without penalty

Rule 13 – Ball moved accidentally by the player – no penalty and replaced at original spot without penalty

Rule 13 – All damage on the green can be repaired without penalty

Rule 13 – Wrong green – you are not permitted to stand on a wrong green when playing a shot

Rule 13 – Flagstick can be kept in the hole without penalty

Rule 13 – Ball is deemed to be holed if any part of it comes to rest below the lip of the cup.

Rule 14 – Drop from knee height

Rule 15 – Loose impediments – can be removed everywhere

Rule 16 – Embedded ball – All areas of the course except hazards

Rule 17 – Penalty areas – Water hazards are now called penalty areas and do not need to contain water in them to be defined

Rule 17 – You can ground your club in a penalty area

Rule 18 – Search time is now 3 minutes

Rule 19 – Unplayable ball in bunker – can be dropped outside bunker with 2 stroke penalty, Still 1 stroke if dropped in bunker

