

Members

2019 brings with it some significant changes to the rules of golf and The Fifty Club will adopt the same set of rules that were put in place by the Dobson Ranch Golf Association (DRGA). Shown below is a summary of the changes.

USGA 2019 RULES OVERVIEW

- 1. General Area:** This is a new term. It replaces “through the green.”
- 2. Dropping Procedure:** The ball must be dropped straight down from knee height.
- 3. Loose impediments in a bunker or penalty area (formerly referred to as a water hazard):** Removal of loose impediments in a bunker or a penalty area are now allowed. You may also ground your club in a penalty area, **but this is still prohibited in a bunker.**
- 4. Time reduced for ball search to 3 minutes:** Your ball is lost if you do not find it within 3 minutes of search.
- 5. Ball accidentally moved** while searching. Replace with no penalty.
- 6. Flagstick can remain in the hole:** You can hit the unattended flagstick when putting.
- 7. Ball or ball-marker accidentally moved on green.** Replace with no penalty.
- 8. If a ball on the putting green was lifted and replaced and it then moves,** it is always replaced
- 9. Touching line of play on green:** Touching your line of play on the green is now allowed.
- 10. Spike mark repairs allowed on green.** You can **repair almost any damage** to the green, including spike marks and animal damage.
- 11.** The club to be used for measuring purposes in all relief situations is the **longest club** in your bag, **other than your putter.**
- 12.** A **new unplayable ball option** allows a player to drop outside the bunker (back on a line) for a total of 2 penalty strokes. Incidental contact with the sand in a bunker is now not a penalty, so long as the player does not make a mark directly in front of or directly behind their ball and is not testing the surface.
- 13. Ball change allowed in all situations when taking relief.** In free-relief situations, as well as in penalty situations, you are entitled to change your ball.
- 14. Ball in motion.** The player's ball can strike any object, including the player or the player's equipment, and there is no penalty. This includes a double hit, play it as it lies. There is one exception. In the act of putting your ball strikes another ball at rest on the green. It is a 2-stroke penalty.

We look forward to your feedback and to seeing you at the Ranch.

The Fifty Club Board

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