2019 New Rules of Golf

1. Time to search for a lost ball now 3 minutes (not 5 minutes)

2. If you accidentally move your ball when searching for it, replace it without penalty

3. Free relief is allowed if your ball is embedded on the fairway or in the rough (embedded means that part of your ball is below the level of the ground)

4. Measure the relief area to drop in with the longest club in your bag (except your putter)

5. Drop from knee height NOT shoulder height

6. No penalty if the ball hits you or your equipment accidentally after a stroke

7. No penalty for a double hit - it only counts as one stroke

8. In bunkers you can now remove loose impediments, smooth out marks on the sand and lean on your club

9. In bunkers you cannot touch the sand with your club in the area in front or right behind your ball, during your back swing or when taking practice swings

10. Penalty areas replace water hazards - you can move loose impediments, ground your club, and take practice swings in penalty area without penalty, just as you can on the fairway or in the rough. Should your ball move you will incur one stroke penalty.

11. Unplayable ball in a bunker - extra option now available - drop outside the bunker for two penalty stokes

12. Putting Green - ball accidentally moved - no penalty and replace

13. Putting Green - Spike marks and other damage can be repaired

14. Ball marked, lifted and replaced on the putting green is moved by wind to another position - replace the ball on the original spot

15. You cannot have your caddie or partner stand behind you once you begin to taking your stance

16. No penalty if your ball strikes the flagstick when you have chosen to leave it in the hole

17. Pace of Play - it is recommended that you take no longer than 40 seconds to make a stroke and Ready Golf in stroke play is encouraged.

18. When dropping back-on-the-line, your ball cannot be played from nearer the hole than your chosen reference point