

## NEW FOR MATCH PLAY SINCE 2019

1) It's no longer a penalty if a player accidentally moves an opponent's ball or ball-marker on the green. The opponent's ball or ball-marker must be replaced. (R 13.1d1)

2) It's no longer a penalty if a player's ball accidentally hits an opponent or their equipment. The ball must be played as it lies. (R11.1a) Except, on the putting green where the stroke is canceled and must be replayed. (R11.1b, Exception 2)

3) It's no longer a penalty for stopping an opponent's ball in motion so long as there is no reasonable chance the ball could go in the hole. Their next stroke is considered to have been conceded. (R11.2a, Exception)

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## MATCH PLAY HAS FIVE PENALTIES

4) A one-stroke penalty which applies to the same Rules breaches or relief situation penalties as in stroke play.

5) A loss of hole penalty which is the equivalent of the two-stroke penalty in stroke play.

6) A two-stroke penalty, but not loss of hole which applies to the fourth relief option of Rule 19.3b for an unplayable ball in a bunker. (And, maybe E-5, if that's in effect.)

7) A match adjustment penalty for a breach of the R4.1b limit of 14 clubs.

8) A disqualification penalty which applies to many of the same Rules breaches as in stroke play.

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## CONCESSIONS

9) **AN OPPONENT'S NEXT STROKE, A HOLE OR THE MATCH MAY BE CONCEDED AT ANY TIME** A concession is final and cannot be declined or withdrawn. (R3.2b2)

☛ Players may not agree in advance to concede certain strokes, such as all putts "inside the leather." (R3.2b1)

☛ Players may not agree to tie a hole until after at least one of them has started play of that hole. (R3.2a2)

☛ Players may not agree to concede holes to each other to deliberately shorten the match. (Interpretation 3.2b1/1)

10) **HOW A PLAYER SHOULD PROCEED WHEN THEY ARE UNCERTAIN ABOUT A RULE OR PROCEDURE?** During their match, the player and their opponent may agree how to decide a Rules issue. The agreed outcome is conclusive even if it turns out to have been wrong under the Rules, so long as the players did not deliberately agree to ignore any Rule or penalty. (R20.1b)

If an agreement cannot be reached, the player must decide what to do and play on. If the opponent disagrees and wishes to request a ruling, usually they must express their intention to do so before starting the next hole.

Similarly, if a player doesn't agree with what their opponent is doing, usually they must express their intention to request a ruling before starting the next hole.

In either case, the Committee will resolve it later.

☛ In match play, a player may not play a "second ball." If they do, they will automatically lose the hole. (20.1b4)

In stroke play only, if a player is uncertain about a Rule or procedure they may play a "second ball." (R20.1c3)

11) **PLAYER SEES AN OPPONENT BREAK A RULE?** The player may silently ignore the breach and not discuss it until after starting the next hole. (R3.2d4)

Or, the player must request a ruling before starting the next hole. The Committee will resolve it later. (R20.1b2)

☛ Players may not agree to disregard a Rules breach or waive a penalty. (R1.3b1)

In stroke play, a player may not ignore another player's breach of a Rule. (R20.1c2)

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## MATCH PLAY VS STROKE PLAY

12) **PLAYER PLAYS A WRONG BALL?** **The player loses the hole.** (Definition of Wrong Ball & R6.3c1)

In stroke play, the penalty is two strokes. The player must correct the mistake. (R6.3c1)

13) **PLAYER PLAYS FROM A WRONG PLACE?** **The player loses the hole.** (Definition of Wrong Place & R14.7a)

In stroke play, the penalty is two strokes. The player must play out the hole with the ball played from the wrong place unless they've committed a serious breach. (R14.7b)

**14) DID THE PLAYER PLAY FROM OUTSIDE THE TEEING AREA OR FROM THE WRONG TEES?** The opponent may immediately recall the stroke and require that the player play from the correct teeing area. Otherwise, the ball is played as it lies without penalty. (R6.1b1)

In stroke play, the penalty is two strokes. The player must then correct the mistake. (R6.1b2)

**15) DID THE PLAYER PLAY OUT OF TURN?** The opponent may immediately recall the stroke and require that the player play in the proper order. Otherwise, the ball is played as it lies without penalty. (R6.4a2)

However, when done solely for the purpose of saving time, a player whose turn it is to play may invite an opponent to play first. The opponent is not obligated to accept the offer. (R6.4a2, Exception)

☛ In match play, players may not agree in advance to play “ready golf.” (R1.3b)

In stroke play, “ready golf” is encouraged. (R6.4b2)

**16) DID THE PLAYER DELIBERATELY MOVE AN OPPONENT’S BALL WITHOUT THEIR PERMISSION?** The opponent’s ball must be replaced. **The player incurs a one-stroke penalty.** (R9.5b)

In stroke play, there is no penalty for anyone. (R9.6)

**17) DID A PLAYER’S BALL ACCIDENTALLY HIT AN OPPONENT’S BALL?** The player must play their ball as it lies. The moved ball must be replaced. No penalty for either player anywhere on the course. (R9.6 & R11.1)

In stroke play, if both balls are on the putting green when this happens, there is a two-stroke penalty for the player whose putt hit the other ball. (R11.1a, Exception)

**18) DID THE PLAYER BREACH ANY OF THE “RELIEF” RULES SUCH AS THOSE ON LOOSE IMPEDIMENTS, MOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS, ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITIONS, PENALTY AREAS, BALL LOST OR BALL OUT OF BOUNDS, OR BALL UNPLAYABLE?** **The player may incur a one-stroke penalty or they may lose the hole.** (Refer to R15, R16, R17, R18 & R19)

In stroke play, the penalty is either one or two strokes.

**19) DID A PLAYER GIVE WRONG INFORMATION TO AN OPPONENT?** If it’s about the number of strokes they have taken or of any penalty strokes they have incurred, **the player may lose the hole** unless corrected in time. (See R3.2d for the details)

In stroke play, corrections to a player’s score can be made up until the scorecard has been “returned.” (R3.3b2)

USGA Rules of Golf 2019  
January 20, 2021

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## A REFEREE’S DUTIES AND AUTHORITY DEPEND ON THE REFEREE’S ASSIGNMENT

**20) WHEN ASSIGNED TO ONE MATCH FOR THE ENTIRE ROUND** The “assigned” referee will be with the match throughout its entirety and is responsible for acting on any breach of the Rules that they see or are told about. Three suggestions:

- 1) Take notes and/or keep a scorecard.
- 2) When giving a ruling invite the opponent to listen in on the conversation.
- 3) When the match reaches the putting green, get out of your cart and stand near the green so that you can hear concessions, confirm scores with the players and be in position to make the state-of-the-match announcement. (Committee Procedures, 6C1)

**21) WHEN TASKED TO MONITOR MULTIPLE MATCHES OR CERTAIN HOLES OR SECTIONS OF THE COURSE** An “unassigned” roving referee has only limited authority to intervene in play. They should avoid becoming involved in a match unless:

- 1) a player asks for help with the Rules, or
- 2) a player may be in breach of a Code of Conduct provision, or
- 3) a player or players may be in breach of Rule 1.3b(1), Players Agreeing to Ignore a Rule or Penalty, or
- 4) a player may be in breach of Rule 5.6, Unreasonable Delay of Play, Prompt Pace of Play, or
- 5) a player arrives late to the first tee, or
- 6) a player’s search for a ball reaches three minutes. (Committee Procedures, 6C1)

**Note:** Both “assigned” and “unassigned” referees should time any ball searches which they come upon. However, check with the Tournament Manager for guidance on whether or not you should assist players in a ball search.