

Rules of Golf Reminders

- **Terminology for Areas of the Golf Course (New in 2019)** – Teeing Area, Bunker, Penalty Area, Green, General Area which is fairway/rough/etc
- **Penalty Area - 1 stroke penalty (marked by red or yellow stakes; all are red at Plum Creek)**
 - Drop within 2 club lengths of where ball crossed into penalty area, no closer to hole.
 - Drop behind penalty area on line formed by flagstick and where ball entered penalty area. (May drop within 1 club length either side of line.)
 - Use the stroke-and-distance option (see below).
 - Play the ball as it lies without penalty.
 - *For Ladies League play only, the fescue may be played as a lateral (red penalty area).*
 - **2019 changes:** May ground your club. May move loose impediments, but if ball moves, one stroke penalty. May take practice swings. Dropping on other side of water is no longer an option.
- **Lost Ball - Stroke-and-distance penalty** (if not covered by penalty area rule): 1 stroke penalty and replay your shot within 1 club length either side of the location of previous shot.
 - When in doubt, hit a provisional ball.
 - Ball is considered lost if not found in 3 minutes.
 - No penalty for accidentally moving your ball during search. If it's moved during search, replace in original position.
 - No longer need to announce that you're picking up a ball to determine if it's your ball, but you must mark it before picking it up.
- **Out of Bounds – Stroke-and-distance penalty.** See above.
- **Unplayable Lie – 1 stroke penalty**
 - Drop within 2 club lengths of where the ball landed, no closer to the hole. (If in a bunker, must stay in the bunker.)
 - Drop on an extension of a line anywhere between the flagstick and where your ball originally came to rest. (If in a bunker, must stay in the bunker. **New in 2019:** Additional option if in bunker, may drop out of bunker on same line but incur 2 stroke penalty.)
 - Replay your shot from the location of your previous shot.
- **Common Situations/Definitions:**
 - **On the Green**
 - May putt with the flagstick in
 - May fix any mark on the green (except natural imperfections) without penalty.
 - No penalty if ball or ball marker is accidentally moved by any player. Replace in original position.
 - Ball moves due to natural forces: 1) If ball has been lifted and replaced, replace in original spot. 2) If ball has not been lifted and replaced, play from its new spot.
 - **Relief Area** – 1 or 2 club lengths (use longest club other than putter) on either side of reference point AND 1 or 2 club lengths behind the reference point. **(1 club length for FREE RELIEF / 2 club lengths for PENALTY RELIEF)** The shape of the relief area is usually a semi-circle or a wedge.
 - **Back-of-the-Line Relief** – Envision a line from the hole through where the ball was at rest (or crossed penalty area). May select reference point anywhere on this line as far back as you want. Drop within one club length on either side of the reference point AND one club length behind. (Semi-circle shape)

- **Dropping a Ball**
 - Drop from around your knee, not the shoulder
 - Dropped ball **must** come to rest in relief area. If not, it must be redropped. After 2 times, it may be placed. Place in spot where it landed on last drop. If a dropped ball (correct or incorrect) rolls out of the drop area and is played, it is a 2 stroke penalty.
 - If you accidentally drop from the shoulder instead of the knee, you may re-drop from knee without penalty IF you have not played your shot yet. If you played your shot, you incur a 1-stroke penalty.

- **Bunkers**
 - May remove loose impediments (If ball moves as a result, it is a one-stroke penalty.)
 - Still can't ground your club or test condition, but rules are more relaxed for incidental touching.
 - Additional option for "unplayable lie" – For a 2-stroke penalty, may take relief outside the bunker back-on-the-line from the hole through where the ball was at rest. (May drop one club length on either side of that point.)

- **Double Hit** – No penalty as long as it was accidental. Double hit or multiple hits in one stroke count as only one stroke.

- **Accidental Deflection of the Ball** – No penalty if the ball accidentally hits you, another player, or equipment. Play it where it lies. (Exception: 2 stroke penalty for hitting another ball on the green if your ball was on the green when putted.)

- **Substituting Ball** – When taking relief, may substitute ball at any time.

- **Embedded Ball in General Area (Fairway and Rough, not Bunker)** – Drop within 1 club length of either side of spot right behind where the ball was embedded. No penalty.

- **Ball at Rest Moves Anywhere Other than Green** – No penalty if 95% certainty that you did not cause movement. Play it where it lies. If you caused movement, 1 stroke penalty. Replace to original position.

- **When to Play** – To make your stroke, take no more than 40 seconds from the time you are (or should be) able to play your shot without distractions. **"Ready golf" is actively encouraged.**