

2023 Rules of Golf Review

- Rules for players with disabilities has been incorporated into the Rules in [Rule 25](#).
- The Interpretations are now called Clarifications.
- The penalty for playing an incorrectly substituted ball is **1 penalty stroke**. [6.3b\(3\)](#)
- A player may repair or replace a damaged club unless the damage was caused by abuse. [4.1a\(2\)](#)
- After a ball is dropped or replaced and is moved by natural forces into another area of the course, the ball is replaced without penalty. [9.3 Exception 2](#)
- When taking back-on-the-line relief the player must drop the ball **on the line**. [14.3b\(3\)](#)
- When taking back-on-the-line relief the dropped ball may roll 1 club-length in **any direction (including forward)** after hitting the ground. [16.1c\(2\)](#), [17.1d\(2\)](#), and [19.2b](#)
- When a ball played from the putting green hits the player, the player's putter, or an insect (or similar) the stroke counts. [11.1b\(2\)](#)
- If a player fails to replay a stroke when required, the penalty is the general penalty not a wrong place penalty which would be subject to disqualification. [11.1b](#), [11.2c](#), and Wrong Place
- When there is not a spot in the general area immediately behind an embedded ball to use as a reference point for taking relief, the player may find a reference point at the nearest location (no closer to the hole) in the general area. [Clarification 16.3b/1](#)
- The Committee (**not the player**) is responsible for including the player's handicap on the player's scorecard. [3.3b\(4\)](#)
- A player is not allowed to set anything down on the course to assist in determining the line of play (even if the object is lifted prior to the stroke). [10.2b\(1\)](#) and [10.2b\(2\)](#)
- When multiple penalties occur (including different penalties), a player is only penalized for the larger of the two penalties unless there an intervening event (**a stroke or the player becomes aware of the breach**). [1.3c\(4\)](#)
- A player is disqualified for giving any information to an opponent which results in a player getting too few strokes or giving to many strokes. [Clarification 3.2c\(1\)/2](#)
- Multiple markers do not need to certify the hole scores on the scorecard if one marker sees the player play all of the holes. [3.3b\(1\)](#)
- A player is permitted to remove an external attachment (ex. a sticker on the clubface) on a club without penalty **if the club has not been used**. [4.1a\(3\)](#)
- A player must not build a club from parts carried **by anyone** on the course. [4.1b\(4\)](#)
- The limitations on green reading material only applies to strokes made on the putting green. [Clarification 4.3a/1](#)
- A player is allowed to practice on any holes not being played on the day of the competition. [Clarification 5.2/1](#)
- In Strokeplay, when a local rule does not allow a player to practise on the course before a round in stroke play. The penalty statement in [Rule 5.2b](#) is not limited to making a stroke as the term “practising on the course” also

includes testing the surface of the *putting green* by rolling a ball or rubbing the surface. If a player rubs the surface of a single *green*, they have only breached [Rule 5.2b](#) once no matter how many times they rub the surface of the same *green*. [Clarification 5.2b/3](#) (Added December 2022)

- When players agree to play out of turn to gain an advantage, those players are penalized **when one of the players makes a stroke out of turn**. [6.4b\(1\)](#)
- The conditions affecting the stroke that are worsened by a referee may be restored. [8.1d\(2\)](#)
- The area behind the player while the player is taking their stance is referred to as the "Restricted Area". [10.2b\(4\)](#)
- A player's caddie may stand in the "Restricted Area" prior to the player making their stroke if they are not assisting the player with aim. [10.2b\(4\)](#)
- A player must not stand on or close to an extension of the line of play behind the ball while their partner is making a stroke to gain information for their (the player's) next stroke. [Rule 22.6](#) and [Rule 23.8](#)
- A player is not allowed to set a self-standing putter down to help with alignment. [Clarification 10.2b/1](#)
- When attempting to correct playing from a wrong place, a player is only required to report the facts to the Committee when the player plays 2 balls. [14.7b\(2\)](#)
- An additional minute is the amount of time a player has to identify their ball after the 3 minute search time has elapsed. [Clarification 18.2a\(1\)/3](#)
- Important Model Local Rule Changes
 - When a player does not replay a stroke that hits a power line, the stroke counts and the player gets the general penalty. MLR E-11
 - The Committee may allow relief from immovable obstructions in a penalty area. MLR F-24
 - The penalty for a breach of the one-ball rule is 1 penalty stroke. MLR G-4
 - The Committee may restrict the damage to a club before it can be replaced. MLR G-9
 - The Committee can prohibit the use of green reading material on the putting green. MLR G-12
 - The Committee can prohibit practice on practice putting greens. MLR I-1
 - Bad times can be carried over to subsequent rounds in stroke play competition. MLR K-2
 - The Committee may modify the penalty for a non-certified score card to 2 penalty strokes. MLR L-1

○ https://www.randa.org/rog/the-rules-of-golf/rule-22#22_6

https://www.randa.org/rog/the-rules-of-golf/rule-23#23_8