

RPMGC Quick Guide – 2019 USGA Rules

The following are the main MAJOR Rules changes for 2019 that most impact play at Recreation Park Golf Course and the RPMGC Tournaments. However, this is just a guide, and not nearly all the changes or all the details of the Rules. All players should obtain the Player's Edition of the Rules of Golf and become familiar with all the rules.

You can download the Rules of Golf App here: <http://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/apps.html#>. Remember, it is the player's sole responsibility to know the Rules.

1. BALL MOVED DURING SEARCH. No penalty for accidentally moving your ball during search. Rule 7.4
2. NO PENALTY FOR MOVING YOUR BALL OR BALL-MARKER ON THE PUTTING GREEN. Rule 13.1d
3. BALL INMOTION ACCIDENTALLY DEFLECTED. No penalty if your ball in motion is accidentally deflected by you, your equipment, or your caddie. Rule 11-1
4. MEASURING THE SIZE OF THE RELIEF AREA WHERE A BALL MUST BE DROPPED AND PLAYED. Your relief area for dropping a ball will be a fixed size of either one or two club-lengths using the longest club in your bag, other than your putter. (See Addendum next page) Rule 14-3
5. NEW PROCEDURE FOR DROPPING A BALL. Your ball must be let go from knee height and fall through the air without touching any part of your body or equipment. Rule 14.3
6. WHERE A DROPPED BALL MUST COME TO REST. Your ball must come to rest in the relief area where it was dropped, or if not, it must be redropped. Rule 14.3
7. FIXED DISTANCES TO BE USED FOR MEASURING. A fixed distance of the longest club in your bag, other than your putter, will be used for measuring. (See addendum next page)
8. TIME FOR SEARCH BEFORE BALL IS LOST. Your ball is lost if not found in THREE (3) minutes (rather than in the previous 5 minutes). Rule 18.2
9. RELIEF FOR AN EMBEDDED BALL. Relief allowed without penalty for an embedded ball anywhere (except in sand) in the "General Area" (new term for "through the green"). Rule 16.3
10. WHEN TO REPLACE A BALL THAT MOVES ON THE PUTTING GREEN. After your ball has been lifted and replaced, you would always replace your ball on its original spot, even if it was blown by the wind or moved for no clear reason. Rule 13.1d
11. REPAIRING DAMAGE ON THE PUTTING GREEN. Repair of almost any damage allowed on the putting green (including spike marks and animal damage). Rule 13.1c(2)
12. TOUCHING LINE OF PLAY ON A PUTTING GREEN. No penalty for touching your line of play on the putting green so long as doing so does not improve the conditions of your stroke. Rule 16.1a
13. BALL PLAYED FROM GREEN HITS UNATTENDED FLAGSTICK IN HOLE. You can opt to leave the flag in when putting. Rule 13.2a(2)
14. MOVING OR TOUCHING LOOSE IMPEDIMENTS OR TOUCHING SAND IN A BUNKER. Players can move loose impediments without penalty. An extra relief option was added. Rules 12.2a and 12.2b.
15. UNPLAYABLE BALL IN BUNKER. Relief outside a bunker for an unplayable ball for two penalty strokes (The General Penalty). Rule 19.3b.
16. USE OF DISTANCE-MEASURING DEVICES. The use of DMD's is allowed unless a Local Rule has been adopted prohibiting their use. Rule 4.3. DMD's are allowed.
17. BALL ACCIDENTALLY STRUCK MORE THAN ONCE DURING A STROKE. If your club accidentally strikes your ball more than once during a stroke, there is NO penalty and your ball must be played as it lies. Rule 10.1a.
18. ELIMINATION OF THE REQUIREMENT TO ANNOUNCE THE PLAYER'S INTENT TO LIFT A BALL. When you have good reason to mark and lift your ball, you are no longer required to first announce your intention. Rules 4.2c, 7.3 and 16.4.
19. PLAYER'S REASONABLE JUDGMENT IN ESTIMATING AND MEASURING. Rule 1.3b(2).
20. LOCAL RULE: ALTERNATIVE TO STROKE AND DISTANCE. A new Local Rule could provide an alternative to stroke-and-distance relief for a ball that is lost outside a penalty area or out-of-bounds. THIS LOCAL RULE WILL NOT BE IN EFFECT AT RPMGC TOURNAMENTS.

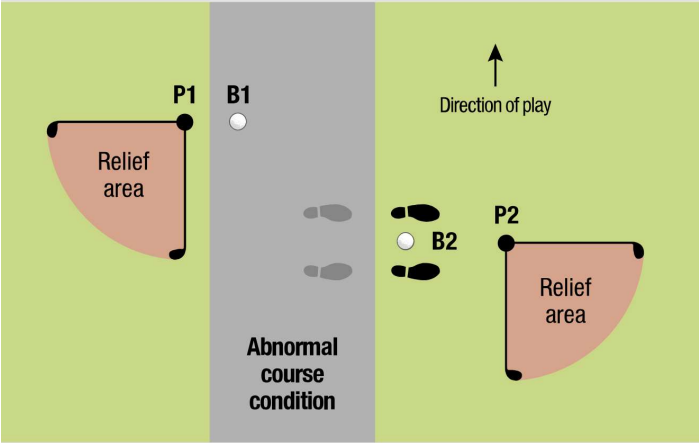
DETERMING THE RELIEF AREA and DROPPING.

The key things to remember are to determine a RELIEF AREA which must be completely within the area of the course where the relief is taken (i.e. all within a bunker, or all within the General Area, etc. - the Relief Area cannot overlap two areas of the course). The Relief Area will generally now be a Reference Point with one full club length from that spot in the shape of a semi-circle that is not nearer the hole than the Reference Point. The relief area may be smaller if there are Bunkers or Greens or Penalty Areas near the Reference Point.

The key things to remember are to drop at knee height from the ground, and that the ball must land in and come to rest in, the RELIEF AREA (it can roll out and come back in). This is a little different than under the previous versions of the Rules when a ball in, say casual water in the rough, could get a club length of free relief and roll another two club lengths and be in play in the fairway!

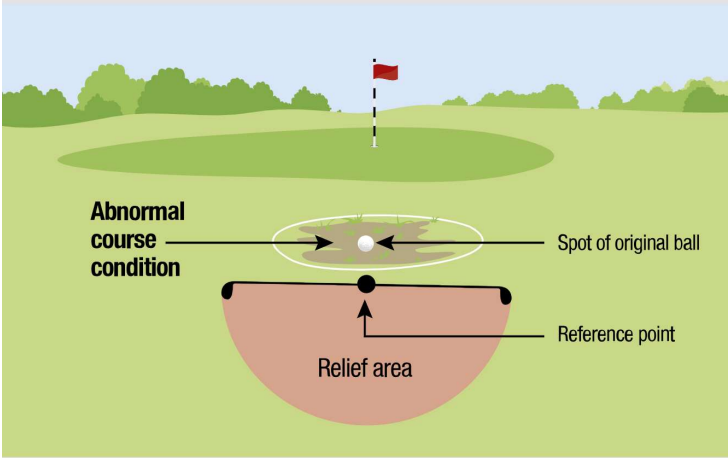
A few examples of how to take relief are illustrated below (there are more examples in the Players Edition Rules Book):

DIAGRAM 16.1a: WHEN RELIEF IS ALLOWED FOR ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITION



The diagram assumes the player is right-handed. Free relief is allowed for interference by an abnormal course condition (ACC), including an immovable obstruction, when the ball touches or lies in or on the condition (B1), or the condition interferes with the area of intended stance (B2) or swing. The nearest point of complete relief for B1 is P1, and is very close to the condition. For B2, the nearest point of complete relief is P2, and is farther from the condition as the stance has to be clear of the ACC.

DIAGRAM 16.1b: FREE RELIEF FROM ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITION IN GENERAL AREA

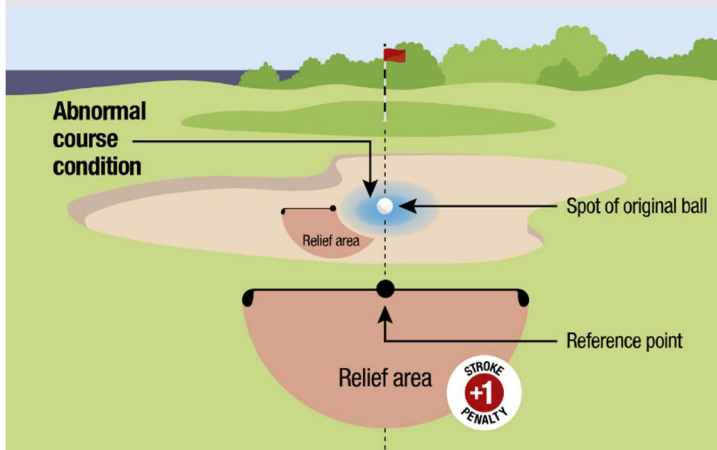


Free relief is allowed when the ball is in the general area and there is interference by an abnormal course condition. The nearest point of complete relief should be identified and a ball must be dropped in and come to rest in the relief area.

Reference Point	Size of Relief Area	Limits on Relief Area
The nearest point of complete relief	One club-length from the reference point	The relief area: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must not be nearer the hole than the reference point, and• Must be in the general area

Player Notes:
When taking relief, you must take complete relief from all interference by the abnormal course condition.

DIAGRAM 16.1c: RELIEF FROM ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITION IN BUNKER

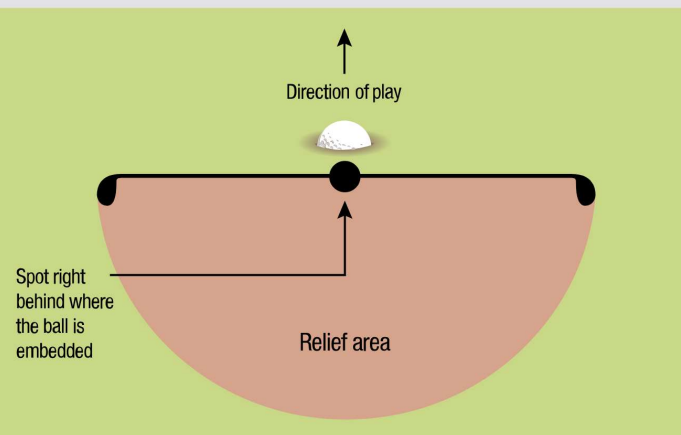


The diagram assumes a right-handed player. When there is interference from an abnormal course condition in a bunker, free relief may be taken in the bunker under Rule 16.1b.

Relief may be taken outside the bunker for one penalty stroke. Relief outside the bunker is based on a reference line going straight back from the hole through the spot of the original ball in the bunker.

Reference Point	Size of Relief Area	Limits on Relief Area
A point on the course outside the bunker chosen by the player that is on the reference line and is farther from the hole than the original spot (with no limit on how far back on the line)	One club-length from the reference point	The relief area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must not be nearer the hole than the reference point, and • May be in any area of the course
Player Notes: In choosing this reference point, you should indicate the point by using an object (such as a tee).		

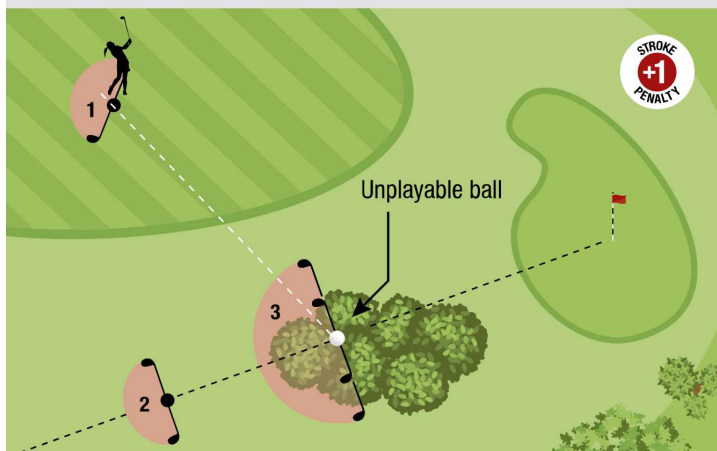
DIAGRAM 16.3b: FREE RELIEF FOR EMBEDDED BALL



When a ball is embedded in the general area, free relief may be taken. The reference point for taking relief is the spot right behind where the ball is embedded. A ball must be dropped in and come to rest in the relief area.

Reference Point	Size of Relief Area	Limits on Relief Area
The spot right behind where the ball is embedded	One club-length from the reference point	The relief area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must not be nearer the hole than the reference point, and • Must be in the general area

DIAGRAM 19.2: RELIEF OPTIONS FOR BALL UNPLAYABLE IN GENERAL AREA

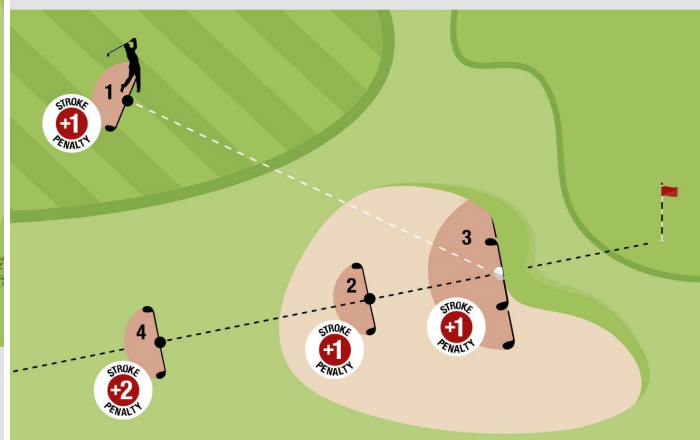


A player decides that his or her ball in a bush is unplayable. The player has **three options**, in each case adding one penalty stroke:

- (1) The player may take stroke-and-distance relief by playing the original ball or another ball from a relief area based on where the previous stroke was made (see Rule 14.6 and Diagram 14.6).

Reference Point	Size of Relief Area	Limits on Relief Area
The spot where the previous stroke was made (which if not known must be estimated)	One club-length from the reference point	The relief area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must not be nearer the hole than the reference point, and • Must be in the same area of the course as the reference point

DIAGRAM 19.3: RELIEF OPTIONS FOR BALL UNPLAYABLE IN BUNKER



A player decides that his or her ball in a bunker is unplayable. The player has **four options**:

- (1) For one penalty stroke, the player may take stroke-and-distance relief.
- (2) For one penalty stroke, the player may take back-on-the-line relief in the bunker.
- (3) For one penalty stroke, the player may take lateral relief in the bunker.
- (4) For a total of two penalty strokes, the player may take back-on-the-line relief outside the bunker based on a reference line going straight back from the hole through the spot of the original ball.