



Rules of Golf Key Outcome Changes 2019 vs. 2023 Comparison Summary

Prepared for: 2023 CGA Women's Golf Summit



Rules Reference	2019 Outcome	2023 Outcome
Rules 3.3b(4) / 22.1 / 23.2b(1) Requirement around handicap on scorecard (stroke play)	Player responsible for accurate handicap on a returned scorecard.	Player not responsible for showing handicap on their returned scorecard. Committee responsibility.
Rule 4.1a(2) Club damaged during round or while play is stopped	A player normally must not replace a club damaged during a round except in limited cases.	Except in cases of abuse, the player may repair, replace, or continue to use any damaged club.
Rule 6.3b Player makes a stroke at an incorrectly substituted ball	Penalty – General penalty	Penalty – One-stroke penalty
Rule 9.3 Ball at rest moved by natural forces	If a ball at rest is moved by natural forces (except after being replaced on the putting green), the ball is to be played from where it comes to rest.	If a ball at rest is moved by natural forces <u>after</u> being dropped, placed, or replaced and comes to rest in a different area of the course or out of bounds, the ball <u>must</u> be replaced. (A ball on the putting green that has already been replaced and then moves, must be replaced).
Rules 14.3b / 16.1c(2) / 17.1d(2) Back-on-the-line relief	While remaining within the limits of the specific Rule, the player may drop the ball one club-length away from the line and if the ball rolls forward of the reference point the ball must be dropped a second time.	While remaining within the limits of the specific Rule, the player must drop the ball <u>on the line</u> and the ball must come to rest within one club-length in <u>any</u> direction of where it first touched the line.
Rules 16.3b Embedded ball relief	There is no requirement for the reference point to be in the general area. In some situations, relief is not available if no part of the relief area is in the general area.	The reference point must be in the general area. If the spot right behind the ball is not in the general area, the player must find the nearest spot (no closer to the hole) in the general area and use that as the reference point.
Rule 22.6 / 23.8 Standing behind partner in Foursomes or Four-Ball	A player or side is in breach of Rule 10.2b(4) if their partner stands behind them once they start to take their stance for the stroke unless the player takes the stance again and the partner is still behind them.	Prohibits a partner from standing behind the player to <u>gain information</u> for the sides or their own next stroke, and if they do, the side or partner gets the general penalty. This is in addition to the limitations in Rule 10.2b(4) on the player.
Rule 25 Modifications for players with disabilities	Modifications treated as local rules.	Now part of the rules and are in effect for all competitions.

*To view the full list of 2019 vs. 2023 changes, go to www.usga.org