2016 CHANGES TO THE RULES OF GOLF
Overview

Four Major Changes
Definition Changes
Clarifications and Minor Changes
Four Major Changes

Rule 18-2b        Eliminated
Rule 6-6d         Exception to the DQ penalty added
Rule 14-3         Two tiered penalty structure
                  (DQ only for a subsequent breach)
Rule 14-1b        Anchoring the Club
Rule 18-2

Rule 18-2b eliminated

Decision 18-2/0.5 - “weight of the evidence” standard
18-2. By Player, Partner, Caddie or Equipment

Except as permitted by the *Rules*, when a player’s ball is *in play*, if:

(i) the player, his *partner* or either of their *caddies*

- lifts or *moves* the ball...
By Player, Partner, Caddie or Equipment

Except as permitted by the Rules, when a player’s ball is in play, if:

(i) the player, his partner or either of their caddies:
   - lifts or moves the ball,
   - touches it purposely (except with a club in the act of addressing the ball), or
   - causes the ball to move, or

(ii) the equipment of the player or his partner causes the ball to move, the player incurs a penalty of one stroke.

If the ball is moved, it must be replaced, unless the movement of the ball occurs after the player has begun the stroke or the backward movement of the club for the stroke and the stroke is made.

Under the Rules there is no penalty if a player accidentally causes his ball to move in the following circumstances:

- In searching for a ball covered by sand, in the replacement of loose impediments moved in a hazard while finding or identifying a ball, in probing for a ball lying in water in a water hazard or in searching for a ball in an obstruction or an abnormal ground condition – Rule 12-1
- In repairing a hole plug or ball mark – Rule 16-1c
- In measuring – Rule 18-6
- In lifting a ball under a Rule – Rule 20-1
- In placing or replacing a ball under a Rule – Rule 20-3a
- In removing a loose impediment on the putting green – Rule 23-1
- In removing movable obstructions – Rule 24-1

B. Ball Moving After Address

If a player’s ball in play moves after he has addressed it (other than as a result of a stroke), the player is deemed to have moved the ball and incurs a penalty of one stroke.

The ball must be replaced, unless the movement of the ball occurs after the player has begun the stroke or the backward movement of the club for the stroke and the stroke is made.

Exception: If it is known or virtually certain that the player did not cause the ball to move, Rule 18-2b does not apply.
18-2. By Player, Partner, Caddie or Equipment

Except as permitted by the Rules, when a player’s ball is in play, if:

(i) the player, his partner or either of their caddies

  • lifts or moves the ball...
18-2. By Player, Partner, Caddie or Equipment

Except as permitted by the Rules, when a player’s ball is in play, if:

(i) the player, his partner or either of their caddies

- lifts or moves the ball,
- touches it purposely (except with a club in the act of addressing the ball)

or...
18-2. By Player, Partner, Caddie or Equipment

Except as permitted by the Rules, when a player’s ball is in play, if:

(i) the player, his partner or either of their caddies

- lifts or moves the ball,
- touches it purposely (except with a club in the act of addressing the ball)

or

- causes the ball to move…
18-2. By Player, Partner, Caddie or Equipment

Except as permitted by the *Rules*, when a player’s ball is *in play*, if:

(i) the player, his *partner* or either of their *caddies*...or

(ii) the *equipment* of the player or his *partner* causes the ball to *move*...
18-2. By Player, Partner, Caddie or Equipment

Except as permitted by the Rules, when a player’s ball is in play, if:

(i) the player, his partner or either of their caddies...
or

(ii) the equipment of the player or his partner causes the ball to move

the player incurs a penalty of one stroke....
18-2. By Player, Partner, Caddie or Equipment

Except as permitted by the Rules, when a player’s ball is in play, if:

(i) the player, his partner or either of their caddies...or

(ii) the equipment of the player or his partner causes the ball to move

the player incurs a penalty of one stroke.

• If the ball is moved,

• it must be replaced...
When a player’s ball at rest moves, the cause of the ball’s movement has to be assessed. In many situations, the answer will be obvious: the player may have

- kicked the ball inadvertently,
- dropped his equipment on it, or
- otherwise clearly caused it to move...
18-2/0.5 Weight of Evidence Standard for Determining Whether Player Caused His Ball to Move

When a player’s ball at rest moves, the cause of the ball’s movement has to be assessed. In many situations, the answer will be obvious: the player may have

- kicked the ball inadvertently,
- dropped his equipment on it, or
- otherwise clearly caused it to move;

alternatively, the player may have taken no action near the ball and something else (such as a spectator or animal) clearly caused it to move....
...In other situations, however, there may be some question as to why the ball moved – e.g.

- because it is less than certain that the player’s actions near the ball caused it to move, or
- because multiple factors were present that potentially might have caused the ball to move....
...In other situations, however, there may be some question as to why the ball moved – e.g.

- because it is less than certain that the player’s actions near the ball caused it to move, or
- because multiple factors were present that potentially might have caused the ball to move.

All relevant information must be considered and the weight of the evidence must be evaluated (Decision 34-3/9)....
18-2/0.5 Weight of Evidence Standard for Determining Whether Player Caused His Ball to Move

... Depending on the circumstances, the relevant considerations may include, but are not limited to:

- **The nature of any actions taken near the ball** (e.g. movement of loose impediments, practice swings, grounding club, taking stance, etc.),
- **Time elapsed** between such actions and the movement of the ball,
- **The lie of the ball** before it moved (e.g. on a closely-mown area, perched on longer grass, on a surface imperfection, etc.),
- **The conditions of the ground near the ball** (e.g. degree of slope, presence of surface irregularities, etc.), and
- **Wind, rain and other weather conditions**....
18-2/0.5 Weight of Evidence Standard for Determining Whether Player Caused His Ball to Move

... If the weight of evidence indicates that it is more likely than not that the player caused the ball to move, even though that conclusion is not free from doubt, the player incurs a one-stroke penalty under Rule 18-2 and the ball must be replaced....
18-2/0.5 Weight of Evidence Standard for Determining Whether Player Caused His Ball to Move

Otherwise = the weight of evidence indicates that it is LESS likely than not that that the player caused the ball to move

Otherwise, the player incurs no penalty....
... If the weight of evidence indicates that it is more likely than not that the player caused the ball to move, even though that conclusion is not free from doubt, the player incurs a one-stroke penalty under Rule 18-2 and the ball must be replaced.

Otherwise, the player incurs no penalty and the ball is played as it lies unless some other Rule applies (e.g., Rule 18-1).
... With reference to the considerations above, examples of situations where the weight of the evidence would indicate that the player caused the ball to move are:

- A player’s ball lies on a flat portion of the putting green on a day with light winds. The player addresses the ball and the ball immediately moves....
... With reference to the considerations above, examples of situations where the weight of the evidence would indicate that the player caused the ball to move are:

- A player’s ball lies on a flat portion of the putting green on a day with light winds. The player addresses the ball and the ball immediately moves. Under these circumstances, it is more likely than not that the act of addressing the ball caused the ball to move....
... With reference to the considerations above, examples of situations where the weight of the evidence would indicate that the player caused the ball to move are:

- A player’s ball lies on a tuft of grass in the rough. The player takes several practice swings near the ball, with the club coming into contact with grass in the process. Almost immediately, the ball then moves vertically down in the grass....
With reference to the considerations above, examples of situations where the weight of the evidence would indicate that the player caused the ball to move are:

- A player’s ball lies on a tuft of grass in the rough. The player takes several practice swings near the ball, with the club coming into contact with grass in the process. Almost immediately, the ball then moves vertically down in the grass. Under these circumstances, it is more likely than not that the practice swings, in conjunction with the lie of the ball, caused the movement of the ball....
With reference to the considerations above, examples of situations where the weight of the evidence would indicate that the player did NOT cause the movement are:

- On a very windy day, a player addresses the ball on the putting green. A short time later the ball moves slightly in the direction the wind is blowing....
... With reference to the considerations above, examples of situations where the weight of the evidence would indicate that the player did NOT cause the movement are:

- On a very windy day, a player addresses the ball on the putting green. A short time later the ball moves slightly in the direction the wind is blowing. The strength and direction of the wind and the delay in the movement of the ball after the club was grounded indicate that factors other than the player are more likely than not to have caused the movement....
18-2/0.5 Weight of Evidence Standard for Determining Whether Player Caused His Ball to Move

... the weight of the evidence would indicate that **the player did NOT** cause the movement:

- A player’s ball lies on an **upslope** in a closely-mown area. He makes a practice swing, but does so some **distance** from the ball as he is concerned that the ball may move. He **carefully** takes his stance but does **not ground** his club. Prior to making his backswing for the stroke, the ball moves....
18-2/0.5 Weight of Evidence Standard for Determining Whether Player Caused His Ball to Move

... the weight of the evidence would indicate that the player did NOT cause the movement:

- A player’s ball lies on an upslope in a closely-mown area. He makes a practice swing, but does so some distance from the ball as he is concerned that the ball may move. He carefully takes his stance but does not ground his club. Prior to making his backswing for the stroke, the ball moves. As the ball did not move while the player made the practice swing or took his stance, it is more likely than not that other factors (i.e., the ball’s lie on an upslope) caused the ball to move. (New 2016)
18-2/0.5 Weight of Evidence Standard for Determining Whether Player Caused His Ball to Move

... the weight of the evidence would indicate that the player did NOT cause the movement.

- A player’s ball lies on an upslope in a closely-mown area. He makes a practice swing, but does so some distance from the ball as he is concerned that the ball may move. He carefully takes his stance but does not ground his club. Prior to taking his backswing for the stroke, the ball moves. As the ball did not move while the player made the practice swing or took his stance, it is more likely than not that other factors (i.e., the ball’s lie on an upslope) caused the ball to move. (New 2016)
Rule 18-2

Questions
Rule 6-6d

Exception to the DQ penalty added
Wrong Score for Hole
The competitor is responsible for the correctness of the score recorded for each hole on his score card.

If he returns a score for any hole lower than actually taken, he is disqualified.
If he returns a score for any hole higher than actually taken, the score as returned stands.

Penalty for breach of Rule 6-6b:
Disqualification.

c. Alteration of Score Card
No alteration may be made on a score card after the competitor has returned it to the Committee.
d. Wrong Score for Hole
The competitor is responsible for the correctness of the score recorded for each hole on his score card. If he returns a score for any hole lower than actually taken, he is disqualified. If he returns a score for any hole higher than actually taken, the score as returned stands.

Note 1: The Committee is responsible for the addition of scores and application of the handicap recorded on the score card – see Rule 33-5.
Note 2: In four-ball stroke play, see also Rules 31-3 and 31-7a.

2012-2015

2016

6-6. SCORING IN STROKE PLAY
a. Recording Scores
After each hole the marker should check the score with the competitor and record it. On completion of the round the marker must sign the score card and hand it to the competitor. If more than one marker records the scores, each must sign for the part for which he is responsible.
b. Signing and Returning Score Card
After completion of the round, the competitor should check his score for each hole and settle any doubtful points with the Committee. He must ensure that the marker or markers have signed the score card, sign the score card himself and return it to the Committee as soon as possible.

Penalty for breach of Rule 6-6b:
Disqualification.
c. Alteration of Score Card
No alteration may be made on a score card after the competitor has returned it to the Committee.
d. Wrong Score for Hole
The competitor is responsible for the correctness of the score recorded for each hole on his score card. If he returns a score for any hole lower than actually taken, he is disqualified. If he returns a score for any hole higher than actually taken, the score as returned stands.

Exception: If a competitor returns a score for any hole lower than actually taken due to failure to include one or more penalty strokes that, before returning his score card, he did not know he had incurred, he is not disqualified. In such circumstances, the competitor incurs the penalty prescribed by the applicable Rule and an additional penalty of two strokes for each hole at which the competitor has committed a breach of Rule 6-6d. This Exception does not apply when the applicable penalty is disqualification from the competition.

Note 1: The Committee is responsible for the addition of scores and application of the handicap recorded on the score card – see Rule 33-5.
Note 2: In four-ball stroke play, see also Rules 31-3 and 31-7a.

Removed (nothing)
Added
d. Wrong Score for Hole
The competitor is responsible for the correctness of the score recorded for each hole on his score card.

If he returns a score for any hole lower than actually taken, he is disqualified....
6-6. Scoring in Stroke Play

**Exception:** If a *competitor* returns a score for any hole lower than actually taken

- due to failure to include one or more *penalty* strokes
- that, before returning his score card, he did not know he had incurred,

he is not disqualified....
Exception: If a competitor returns a score for any hole lower than actually taken

- due to failure to include one or more penalty strokes
- that, before returning his score card, he did not know he had incurred,

he is not disqualified.

In such circumstances, the competitor incurs

- the penalty prescribed by the applicable Rule and
- an additional penalty of two strokes for each hole at which the competitor has committed a breach of Rule 6-6d....
6-6. Scoring in Stroke Play

**Exception:** ...This Exception does not apply when the applicable penalty is disqualification from the competition.
### Decisions of Note Related to the Revised Rule 6-6d Penalty

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6-6d/6 Omission of Penalty on Returned Score Card Discovered Before Close of Competition

Q. A competitor

- returned a score lower than actually taken for the 12th hole
- due to failure to include a penalty incurred when he removed an out of bounds stake that interfered with his stance.
- If this is discovered before the close of competition, is the competitor disqualified for a breach of Rule 6-6d?
Q. A competitor
  • returned a score lower than actually taken for the 12th hole
  • due to failure to include a penalty incurred when he removed an out of bounds stake that interfered with his stance.
  • If this is discovered before the close of competition, is the competitor disqualified for a breach of Rule 6-6d?

A. The competitor is disqualified
  • if he knew that he had incurred a penalty for removing the out of bounds stake
  • but failed to add the penalty to his score....
A. If the competitor

- did not know that removing the stake resulted in a penalty, the Exception to Rule 6-6d applies.
- The competitor incurred the two-stroke penalty for a breach of Rule 13-2 and
- the Committee must also add the additional two-stroke penalty for a breach of Rule 6-6d to the competitor’s score on the 12th hole. (New 2016)
Q. A competitor

- returned a score card and failed to include two penalties he did not know he had incurred – e.g.,
  - on the 4th hole when he lifted his ball from the putting green without marking its position in breach of Rule 20-1 and,
  - on the 5th hole, when he eliminated an irregularity of surface in breach of Rule 13-2.

- Is the competitor subject to an additional two-stroke penalty under the Exception to Rule 6-6d for each hole where his score is incorrect?
6-6d/7 Omission of Multiple Penalties on Returned Score Card Discovered Before Close of Competition

A. Yes, the competitor incurs a two-stroke penalty under the Exception to Rule 6-6d for each hole at which he committed a breach of Rule 6-6d. In this case, the Committee must add

- a one-stroke penalty for a breach of Rule 20-1 to the competitor’s 4th hole score and the additional two-stroke penalty for a breach of Rule 6-6d to his score on the 4th hole, and

- a two-stroke penalty for a breach of Rule 13-2 to the competitor’s 5th hole score and the additional two-stroke penalty for a breach of Rule 6-6d to his score on the 5th hole.

(New 2016)
6-6d/8 Omission of Disqualification Penalty on Returned Score Card Discovered Prior to Close of Competition

Q. A competitor

- returned his score card without including a penalty of disqualification he had incurred (e.g., he had made a stroke with a nonconforming club or did not correct his error of playing a wrong ball).
- If this is discovered before the close of competition, is the competitor disqualified for a breach of Rule 6-6d?
6-6d/8 Omission of Disqualification Penalty on Returned Score Card Discovered Prior to Close of Competition

Q. A competitor

• returned his score card without including a penalty of disqualification he had incurred (e.g., he had made a stroke with a nonconforming club or did not correct his error of playing a wrong ball).

• If this is discovered before the close of competition, is the competitor disqualified for a breach of Rule 6-6d?

A. Yes. The Exception to Rule 6-6d does not apply to a failure to include a penalty of disqualification, even if the competitor was unaware he had incurred the disqualification penalty. (New 2016)
6-6d/9 Omission of Penalty Stroke for Breach of Rule with General Penalty

Q. On the 10\textsuperscript{th} hole a competitor accidentally causes his ball to move in breach of Rule 18-2.

- The competitor is aware that the penalty for a breach of Rule 18-2 is one stroke, but
- is not aware that he is required to replace the ball and play it from its original location.

Does the Exception to Rule 6-6d apply if the competitor fails to include the additional penalty stroke in his score for the 10\textsuperscript{th} hole?
A. Yes, the Exception to Rule 6-6d applies if a competitor fails to include
   • one or
   • more
penalty strokes on a hole that, prior to returning his score card, he did not know he had incurred....
A. Yes, the Exception to Rule 6-6d applies if a competitor fails to include
    • one or
    • more
penalty strokes on a hole that, prior to returning his score card, he did not know he had incurred.

In this case, the Committee would include
    • the **additional penalty stroke** under Rule 18 for the competitor’s failure to replace the ball, and
    • the **additional penalty of two strokes** for a breach of Rule 6-6d would also be added to the competitor’s score on the 10th hole....
A. This also applies to situations where a competitor
  • is aware of a breach of the Rules, but,
  • unaware that the penalty for the breach is two strokes,
  mistakenly returns a score card that includes a one-stroke penalty for the breach. (New 2016)
Q. A, in ignorance of the Rules and with the concurrence of B, his marker,

- improved the area in which he was to drop a ball by repairing a divot hole.
- Subsequently, C, a fellow-competitor, advised A that he (A) was in breach of Rule 13-2.
- A disagreed,
- failed to settle the doubtful point with the Committee at the end of the round and
- returned his score card without including a two-stroke penalty for a breach of Rule 13-2.

Before the close of the competition, C advised the Committee of the incident. Should A be disqualified under Rule 6-6d?
A. Yes. Rule 6-6d provides that a competitor must be disqualified if he had returned a score lower than actually taken for any reason other than failure to include a penalty he did not know he had incurred.

- As C pointed out to A that he had proceeded incorrectly and
- A took no action to check whether he had incurred a penalty before returning his score card,
- A is deemed to have known that he had incurred a penalty....
A. The same result would occur if, for any reason, a competitor were to be uncertain as to whether he had proceeded correctly or incurred a penalty. (New 2016)
Q. A and B are partners in a four-ball stroke-play competition. On the 11th hole,

- A accidentally moved his ball in play in breach of Rule 18-2.
- A replaced the ball and completed the hole, but did not know that he had incurred a penalty.
- B witnessed the incident and knew it was a one-stroke penalty.
- B scored 6 on the hole and,
- with the one-stroke penalty included, A scored 5.
- The score card was returned and on the 11th hole there was a 4 for A and a 6 for B.

As A did not know he had incurred a penalty, does the Exception to Rule 6-6d apply?
31-7a/3 Omission of Penalty on Returned Score Card Discovered Before Close of Competition; Only Partner Aware of Penalty

A. No,

- in four-ball stroke play, the word “competitor” includes his partner, where the context so admits – see Definition of “Competitor.”
- Accordingly, the side is disqualified under Rule 31-7a.
  (New 2016)
Rule 14-3

Preamble revised

Terminology change:

• Use of Any Equipment in an Abnormal Manner

Two-tiered penalty structure

• 1st breach – General Penalty
• Any subsequent breach – Disqualification

Distance measuring device Local Rule broadened
14-3. Artificial Devices, Unusual Equipment and Unusual Use of Equipment

Rule 14-3 governs the use of equipment and devices (including electronic devices) that might assist a player in making a specific stroke or generally in his play.

Golf is a challenging game in which success should depend on the judgment, skills and abilities of the player. This principle guides the USGA in determining whether the use of any item is in breach of Rule 14-3.

For detailed specifications and interpretations on the conformity of equipment and devices under Rule 14-3 and the process for consultation and submission regarding equipment and devices, see Appendix IV.

**Removed**
- That might assist him in making a stroke or in his play;
- For the purpose of gauging or measuring distance or conditions that might affect his play;
- That might assist him in gripping the club, except that:
  - (i) gloves may be worn provided that they are plain gloves;
  - (ii) resin, powder and drying or moisturising agents may be used; and
  - (iii) a towel or handkerchief may be wrapped around the grip.

**Exceptions:**
1. A player is not in breach of this Rule if (a) the equipment or device is designed for or has the effect of alleviating a medical condition, (b) the player has a legitimate medical reason to use the equipment or device, and (c) the Committee is satisfied that its use does not give the player any undue advantage over other players.
2. A player is not in breach of this Rule if he uses equipment in a traditionally accepted manner.

**Penalty for breach of Rule 14-3:**
- Disqualification.

**Note:** The Committee may make a Local Rule allowing players to use distance-measuring devices.

**Added**
- Rule 14-3 governs the use of equipment and devices (including electronic devices) that might assist a player in making a specific stroke or generally in his play.
- Golf is a challenging game in which success should depend on the judgment, skills and abilities of the player. This principle guides the R&A in determining whether the use of any item is in breach of Rule 14-3.
- For detailed specifications and interpretations on the conformity of equipment and devices under Rule 14-3 and the process for consultation and submission regarding equipment and devices, see Appendix IV.
14-3. Artificial Devices, Unusual Equipment and Unusual Use of Equipment

Rule 14-3 governs the use of equipment and devices (including electronic devices) that might assist a player in making a specific stroke or generally in his play....
14-3. Artificial Devices, Unusual Equipment and Unusual Use of Equipment

Rule 14-3 governs the use of *equipment* and devices (including electronic devices) that might assist a player in making a specific *stroke* or generally in his play.

Golf is a challenging game in which success should depend on the judgment, skills and abilities of the player. This principle guides the USGA in determining whether the use of any item is in breach of Rule 14-3....
14-3. Artificial Devices, Unusual Equipment and Unusual Use of Equipment

Rule 14-3 governs the use of equipment and devices (including electronic devices) that might assist a player in making a specific stroke or generally in his play.

Golf is a challenging game in which success should depend on the judgment, skills and abilities of the player. This principle guides the USGA in determining whether the use of any item is in breach of Rule 14-3.

For detailed specifications and interpretations on the conformity of equipment and devices under Rule 14-3 and the process for consultation and submission regarding equipment and devices, see Appendix IV.
14-3. Artificial Devices, Unusual Equipment and Unusual Use of Equipment

Except as provided in the Rules, during a stipulated round the player must not use any

- artificial device or
- unusual equipment, or
- equipment in an abnormal manner:
14-3. Artificial Devices, Unusual Equipment and Unusual Use of Equipment

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF RULE 14-3:
Match play – Loss of hole; Stroke play – Two strokes.
14-3. Artificial Devices, Unusual Equipment and Unusual Use of Equipment

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF RULE 14-3:
Match play – Loss of hole; Stroke play – Two strokes.
In the event of a breach between the play of two holes, the penalty applies to the next hole....
14-3. Artificial Devices, Unusual Equipment and Unusual Use of Equipment

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF RULE 14-3:
Match play – Loss of hole; Stroke play – Two strokes.
In the event of a breach between the play of two holes, the penalty applies to the next hole.
For subsequent offense – Disqualification.
14-3. Artificial Devices, Unusual Equipment and Unusual Use of Equipment

Note: The Committee may make a Local Rule allowing players to use a distance-measuring device that measures or gauges distance only.
Note: The Committee may make a Local Rule allowing players to use a distance-measuring device.

The Rules are written presuming players will play by them and not attempt to get away with infractions.
14-3/0.5 Local Rule Permitting Use of Distance-Measuring Device

Q. May a Committee, by Local Rule, permit the use of distance-measuring devices?

A. Yes. A Committee may establish a Local Rule allowing players to use a device to measure or gauge distance only (see the Note to Rule 14-3)....
14-3/0.5 Local Rule Permitting Use of Distance-Measuring Device

Q. May a Committee, by Local Rule, permit the use of distance-measuring devices?

A. Yes. A Committee may establish a Local Rule allowing players to use a device to measure or gauge distance only (see the Note to Rule 14-3).

However, if a distance-measuring device has additional functionality

- that can gauge or measure other conditions
- that might affect a player’s play (e.g. elevation change, wind speed, etc.),

the use of any such additional function would be a breach of Rule 14-3.
14-3/0.5 Local Rule Permitting Use of Distance-Measuring Device

Q. May a Committee, by Local Rule, permit the use of distance-measuring devices?

A. Yes. A Committee may establish a Local Rule allowing players to use a device to measure or gauge distance only (see the Note to Rule 14-3).

However, if a distance-measuring device has additional functionality

- that can gauge or measure other conditions
- that might affect a player’s play (e.g. elevation change, wind speed, etc.),

the use of any such additional function would be a breach of Rule 14-3. In the absence of such a Local Rule, the use of a distance-measuring device would be contrary to Rule 14-3. (Revised 2016)
14-3. Artificial Devices, Unusual Equipment and Unusual Use of Equipment

Appendix I-A-7 and Appendix IV-5 also modified to reflect this change.
Rule 14-1b

Does NOT ban long or mid-length putters
All currently conforming clubs may still be used
Focuses only on the method of making a stroke
Prohibits two methods of anchoring during a stroke
  • direct
  • establishing an anchor point
b. Anchoring the Club

In making a stroke, the player must not anchor the club, either “directly” or by use of an “anchor point.

Note 1: The club is anchored “directly” when the player intentionally holds the club or a gripping hand in contact with any part of his body, except that the player may hold the club or a gripping hand against a hand or forearm.

Note 2: An “anchor point” exists when the player intentionally holds a forearm in contact with any part of his body to establish a gripping hand as a stable point around which the other hand may swing the club.
b. Anchoring the Club

In making a stroke, the player must not anchor the club, either “directly” or by use of an “anchor point.”

Note 1: The club is anchored “directly” when the player intentionally holds the club or a gripping hand in contact with any part of his body, except that the player may hold the club or a gripping hand against a hand or forearm.

Note 2: An “anchor point” exists when the player intentionally holds a forearm in contact with any part of his body to establish a gripping hand as a stable point around which the other hand may swing the club.

Rule 14-1b has three parts

- **Text of Rule**: prohibits anchoring
  - “directly” or
  - by use of an “anchor point.”

- **Note 1**: defines “direct” anchoring

- **Note 2**: defines “anchor point”
14-1. General

b. Anchoring the Club

In making a stroke, the player must not anchor the club, either

• “directly”…
14-1. General

b. Anchoring the Club

In making a *stroke*, the player must not anchor the club, either

• “directly”...

**Note 1**: The club is anchored “directly” when the player intentionally holds the club ... in contact with any part of his body....
14-1. General

b. Anchoring the Club

In making a stroke, the player must not anchor the club, either

• “directly”...

**Note 1:** The club is anchored “directly” when the player intentionally holds...a gripping hand in contact with any part of his body....
14-1. General

b. Anchoring the Club

In making a stroke, the player must not anchor the club, either

• “directly” or

• by use of an “anchor point.”
14-1. General

b. Anchoring the Club
In making a *stroke*, the player must not anchor the club, either
• “directly” or
• by use of an “anchor point.”

*Note 2:* An “anchor point” exists when the player intentionally
• holds a *forearm* in contact with any part of his body...
14-1. General

b. Anchoring the Club

In making a stroke, the player must not anchor the club, either

- “directly” or
- by use of an “anchor point.”

Note 2: An “anchor point” exists when the player intentionally

- holds a forearm in contact with any part of his body
- to establish
  - a gripping hand as a stable point ...
14-1. General

b. Anchoring the Club
In making a stroke, the player must not anchor the club, either

• “directly” or

• by use of an “anchor point.”

Note 2: An “anchor point” exists when the player intentionally

• holds a forearm in contact with any part of his body

• to establish

  – a gripping hand as a stable point
  – around which the other hand may swing the club.
Q. Rule 14-1b provides that a player must not anchor the club during a stroke by using an “anchor point.” In Note 2 to the Rule, which defines “anchor point”...

... what does it mean “to hold a forearm
- in contact with any part of the body
- to establish a gripping hand as a stable point around which the other hand may swing the club”? 
A. The “anchor point” provision prohibits only a very specific type of stroke in which a forearm is intentionally held against the body as an indirect means of anchoring the club....
14-1b/2 Meaning of “Anchor Point” in Note 2 to Rule 14-1b

A. ... For an anchor point to exist, the following two criteria must be met:

(1) the player must intentionally hold a forearm against the body;
14-1b/2 Meaning of “Anchor Point” in Note 2 to Rule 14-1b

A. ... For an anchor point to exist, the following two criteria must be met:

(1) the player must intentionally hold a forearm against the body;

(2) and he must grip the club so that the hands
   - are separated and
   - work independently from one another...
14-1b/2 Meaning of “Anchor Point” in Note 2 to Rule 14-1b

A. ... For an anchor point to exist, the following two criteria must be met:

(1) the player must intentionally hold a forearm against the body;
(2) and he must grip the club so that the hands
   - are separated and
   - work independently from one another
(i.e. the top hand effectively secures the club in place as if attached to the body to establish a stable point...)
14-1b/2 Meaning of “Anchor Point” in Note 2 to Rule 14-1b

A. ... For an anchor point to exist, the following two criteria must be met:

(1) the player must intentionally hold a forearm against the body;

(2) and he must grip the club so that the hands
   - are separated and
   - work independently from one another

(i.e. the top hand effectively secures the club in place as if attached to the body to establish a stable point, while the bottom hand is held down the shaft to swing the lower portion of the club around that point). (New 2016)
Q. Rule 14-1b prohibits a player from anchoring the club by use of an “anchor point,” which Note 2 to the Rule defines as a player intentionally holding “a forearm in contact with any part of his body to establish a gripping hand as a stable point around which the other hand may swing the club.”

Does this always preclude the player from intentionally holding his forearm against his body when making a stroke?
Q. Rule 14-1b prohibits anchoring the club by use of an “anchor point,” which Note 2 to the Rule defines as intentionally holding “a forearm in contact with any part of his body to establish a gripping hand as a stable point around which the other hand may swing the club.” Does this always preclude the player from intentionally holding his forearm against his body when making a stroke?
14-1b/1 Intentionally Holding Forearm Against Body When Making Stroke

A. No. A player is permitted to intentionally hold one or both forearms against his body in making a stroke, **provided doing so does not create an anchor point** – see Decision 14-1b/2. (New 2016)
14-1b/1 Intentionally Holding Forearm Against Body When Making Stroke

A. No. A player is permitted to intentionally hold one or both forearms against his body in making a stroke, provided doing so does not create an anchor point – see Decision 14-1b/2. (New 2016)

Decision 14-1b/2
“...For an anchor point to exist, the following two criteria must be met:
1. the player must intentionally hold a forearm against the body; and
2. he must grip the club so that the hands are separated and work independently from one another....”
14-1b/5 Portion of Stroke Anchored

Q. A player directly anchors the club or a gripping hand, or anchors a forearm to establish an anchor point, during some portion of the stroke but not all of it. Is the player in breach of Rule 14-1b?

A. Yes. If the player intentionally holds the club or a gripping hand against his body, or establishes an anchor point during any part of the stroke (i.e. the forward movement of the club made with the intention of striking at and moving the ball), he is in breach of the Rule. (New 2016)
14-1b/6 Club or Gripping Hand Inadvertently Touches Body During Stroke

Q. When making a stroke, a player’s club or gripping hand inadvertently comes in contact with or brushes against his body. Is he in breach of Rule 14-1b?

A. No. The prohibition in Rule 14-1b applies only to a player who intentionally anchors a club, either directly or through use of an anchor point, in making a stroke. (New 2016)
14-1. General

b. Anchoring the Club

Note 1: The club is anchored “directly” when the player intentionally holds the club or a gripping hand in contact with any part of his body, except that the player may hold the club or a gripping hand against a hand or forearm.

Note 1 has two parts

- Part 1: meaning of “direct anchoring”
- Part 2: an exception, allowing the club or a hand to be held against a forearm or a hand.
14-1. General

b. Anchoring the Club

Note 1: The club is anchored “directly” when the player intentionally holds the club or a gripping hand in contact with any part of his body, except that the player may hold the club or a gripping hand against a hand or forearm.
14-1. General

b. Anchoring the Club

Note 1: The club is anchored “directly” when the player intentionally holds the club or a gripping hand in contact with any part of his body, except that the player may hold the club or a gripping hand against a hand or forearm.
14-1b/3 Explanation of “Forearm” in Relation to Rule 14-1b

Note 1 to Rule 14-1b provides that a player may hold his club against his hand or forearm in making a stroke....
14-1b/3 Explanation of “Forearm” in Relation to Rule 14-1b

Note 1 to Rule 14-1b provides that a player may hold his club against his hand or forearm in making a stroke. For the purpose of Rule 14-1b, “forearm” is the part of the arm below the elbow joint and includes the wrist. (New 2016)
Note 1 to Rule 14-1b provides that a player may hold his club against his hand or forearm in making a stroke. For the purpose of Rule 14-1b, “forearm” is the part of the arm below the elbow joint and includes the wrist. (New 2016)
14-1. General

a. Fairly Striking the Ball
The ball must be fairly struck at with the head of the club and must not be pushed, scraped or spooned.

b. Anchoring the Club
In making a stroke, the player must not anchor the club, either “directly” or by use of an “anchor point.”

Note 1: The club is anchored “directly” when the player intentionally holds the club or a gripping hand in contact with any part of his body, except that the player may hold the club or a gripping hand against a hand or forearm.

Note 2: An “anchor point” exists when the player intentionally holds a forearm in contact with any part of his body to establish a gripping hand as a stable point around which the other hand may swing the club.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF RULE 14-1:
Match play – Loss of hole; Stroke play – Two strokes.
14-1. General

a. Fairly Striking the Ball
The ball must be fairly struck at with the head of the club and must not be pushed, scraped or spooned.

b. Anchoring the Club
In making a stroke, the player must not anchor the club, either "directly" or by use of an “anchor point.”

Note 1: The club is anchored “directly” when the player intentionally holds the club or a gripping hand in contact with any part of his body, except that the player may hold the club or a gripping hand against a hand or forearm.

Note 2: An “anchor point” exists when the player intentionally holds a forearm in contact with any part of his body to establish a gripping hand as a stable point around which the other hand may swing the club.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF RULE 14-1:
Match play – Loss of hole; Stroke play – Two strokes.

In stroke play, count:
- the stroke, plus
- a two stroke penalty
for a total of three strokes
14-1. General

a. Fairly Striking the Ball

The ball must be fairly struck at with the head of the club and must not be pushed, scraped or spooned.

b. Anchoring the Club

In making a stroke, the player must not anchor the club, either "directly" or by use of an "anchor point."

Note 1: The club is anchored "directly" when the player intentionally holds the club or a gripping hand in contact with any part of his body, except that the player may hold the club or a gripping hand against a hand or forearm.

Note 2: An "anchor point" exists when the player intentionally holds a forearm in contact with any part of his body, including his body, as a stable point around which the other hand may swing the club.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF RULE 14-1:

Match play – Loss of hole

Stroke play – Two strokes
Rule 14-1b

Questions
Definitions

Equipment

Ball in Play (and Rule 20-4. When Ball Dropped, Placed or Replaced is in Play)

Substituted Ball (and Rule 15-2. Substituted Ball)

Wrong Ball
“Equipment” is anything used, worn, held or carried by the player…
“Equipment” is anything used, worn, held or carried by the player or the player’s caddie...
**Equipment** (exceptions)

except

- any ball that the player has played at the hole being played…

See Decision 18/7 for an explanation of what “any ball he has played” means.
Equipment (exceptions)

except

- any ball that the player

Not Equipment

- any small object, such as a coin or a tee, when used to mark
  - the position of the ball
  - the extent of an area in which a ball is to be dropped

The tee is not equipment when used for any marking or measuring purpose
**Equipment** (clarifications)

**Lifted Ball**

**Note 1:** A ball played at the hole being played is *equipment*  
- when it has been lifted  
- and **not** put back into play.
Note 2: *Equipment* includes objects placed on the *course* for the care of the *course*, such as rakes, *while* they are being

- held or
- carried.
**Note 3:** When equipment is shared by two or more players, the shared equipment is deemed to be the equipment of only one of the players sharing it.

### General principle about shared equipment

- **Shared Golf Cart** – whose equipment is it?
- **All Other Shared Equipment** – whose equipment is it?

### Other Shared Equipment (everything except golf carts)

#### Shared Golf Carts

- When a shared golf cart is being moved by one of the players sharing it (or his partner or either of their caddies), the cart and everything in it are deemed to be the equipment of the player sharing the cart whose ball (or whose partner’s ball) is involved.

#### All Other Shared Equipment

- Other shared equipment is deemed to be the equipment of the player who last used, wore, held or possessed the equipment until it is used, worn, held or possessed by another player (or his partner or either of their caddies).
Note 3: When equipment is shared by two or more players, the shared equipment is deemed to be the equipment of only one of the players sharing it....
part 1 – General

Note 3: When equipment is shared by two or more players, the shared equipment is deemed to be the equipment of only one of the players sharing it....

A and C are sharing an umbrella or a cart. No matter what happens, each will be either A’s equipment or C’s equipment (and no one else’s).
part 2 – Shared Carts

Meaning 1 of 4

Note 3: ... If a shared golf cart is being moved by one of the players sharing it (or his partner or either of their caddies), the cart and everything in it are deemed to be that player’s equipment.

- A and C are sharing the cart
- the cart is being moved by C
- RULING ➔ the ball is run over and moved by C’s equipment
part 2 – Shared Carts

Meaning 2 of 4

Note 3: ... If a shared golf cart is being moved by one of the players sharing it (or his partner or either of their caddies), the cart and everything in it are deemed to be that player’s equipment.

- A and C are sharing the cart
- the cart being moved by D (C’s partner)
- RULING ➔ the ball is run over and moved by C’s equipment
Note 3: …Otherwise…

Otherwise = any time the cart is NOT on motion

Cart (stationary) shared by Player A and Player C.
A plays a stroke which deflects off of C’s bag on the cart
part 2 – Shared Carts

Note 3: …Otherwise, the cart and everything in it are deemed to be the equipment of the player sharing the cart whose ball (or whose partner’s ball) is involved.

- A and C are sharing the cart (which is stationary)
- A’s ball in motion deflects off of C’s bag on the cart
- RULING: A’s ball in motion has been deflected by A’s equipment

Cart (stationary) shared by Player A and Player C. A plays a stroke which deflects off of C’s bag on the cart
part 2 – Shared Carts

Meaning 4 of 4

Note 3: …Otherwise, the cart and everything in it are deemed to be the equipment of the player sharing the cart whose ball (or whose partner’s ball) is involved.

- A and C are sharing the cart (which is stationary)
- (A’s partner) B’s ball in motion deflects off of C’s bag on the cart
- RULING ➔ B’s ball in motion has been deflected by A’s equipment
part 2 – Shared Carts

Meaning 4 of 4

Note 3: …Otherwise, the cart and everything in it are deemed to be the equipment of the player sharing the cart whose ball (or whose partner’s ball) is involved.

- A and C are sharing the cart (which is stationary)
- (A’s partner) B’s ball in motion deflects off of C’s bag on the cart
- RULING ➔ B’s ball in motion has been deflected by A’s equipment

Cart (stationary) shared by Player A and Player C. B (A’s partner) plays a stroke which deflects off of C’s bag on the cart
Equipment (shared equipment)

part 3 –

All Other Equipment

Note 3: ... Other shared equipment is deemed to be the equipment of the player who last

- used,  
- held or
- wore,  
- carried it....
Note 3: ... Other shared equipment is deemed to be the equipment of the player who last

- used,
- held or
- wore,
- carried it.

It remains that player’s equipment until it is used, worn, held or carried by the other player (or his partner or either of their caddies).....
Note 3: ... Other shared equipment is deemed to be the equipment of the player who last:

- used,
- held or
- wore,
- carried it.

It remains that player’s equipment until it is used, worn, held or carried by the other player (or his partner or either of their caddies)....
**Ball in Play**

A ball in play that is:
- marked
- but not lifted
remains in play...

---

**New 2\(^{nd}\) Paragraph**

A ball in play that has been marked but not lifted remains in play. A ball that has been marked, lifted and replaced is back in play whether or not the ball-marker has been removed.
**Ball in Play**

A *ball in play* that has been
- marked
- but not lifted
remains *in play*....

Marked ball remains in play until lifted
**Ball in Play**

A *ball in play* that has been
- marked
- but not lifted
remains *in play*.

A ball that has been
- marked,
- lifted
- and replaced
is back *in play* whether or not the ball-marker has been removed.
20-4 When Ball Dropped, Placed or Replaced is in Play

20-4. When Ball Dropped or Placed is in Play

If the player’s *ball in play* has been lifted,

• it is again *in play* when dropped or placed.

• A ball that has been replaced is *in play* whether or not the ball-marker has been removed.

*A substituted ball* becomes the *ball in play* when it has been dropped or placed.
20-4 When Ball Dropped, Placed or Replaced is in Play

If the player’s *ball in play* has been lifted,

- it is again *in play* when dropped or placed.
- A ball that has been replaced is *in play* whether or not the ball-marker has been removed.

A *substituted ball* becomes the *ball in play* when it has been dropped or placed.
Substituted Ball (a replacement ball in play)

A “substituted ball” is a ball put into play for the original ball that was either

- in play,
- lost,
- out of bounds or
- lifted...

First Sentence Extended and
New Sentence Added
Substituted Ball (a replacement ball in play)

A “substituted ball” is a ball put into play for the original ball that was either

- in play,
- lost,
- out of bounds or
- lifted,

whether or not the substitution was permitted.
**Substituted Ball** *(a replacement ball in play)*

A “**substituted ball**” is a ball put into play for the original ball that was either

- *in play,*
- *lost,*
- *out of bounds* or
- *lifted,*

whether or not the substitution was permitted.

A **substituted ball** becomes the *ball in play* when it has been dropped or placed (see Rule 20-4).
Substituted Ball (a replacement ball in play)

A “substituted ball” is a ball put into play for the original ball that was either

- in play,
- lost,
- out of bounds or
- lifted, whether or not the substitution was permitted.

Substituted Ball (a replacement ball in play)

Rule 20-4. When Ball Dropped or Placed is in Play

“…A substituted ball becomes the ball in play when it has been dropped or placed.”

A substituted ball becomes the ball in play when it has been dropped or placed (see Rule 20-4)
Rule 15-2. Substituted Ball

A player may substitute a ball when proceeding under a Rule that permits the player to play, drop or place another ball in completing the play of a hole.

The substituted ball becomes the ball in play.

New Parenthetical Phrase Added

Substitution is permitted when proceeding under Rule 26-1 (Relief for Ball in Water Hazard)
Rule 15-2. Substituted Ball

If a player *substitutes* a ball when not permitted to do so under the *Rules*...

- that *substituted ball* is not a *wrong ball*;
- it becomes the *ball in play*...

Substitution is *NOT permitted* when proceeding under Rule 24-2 (Immovable Obstruction)
Rule 15-2. Substituted Ball

If a player *substitutes* a ball when not permitted to do so under the Rules...

- that *substituted ball* is not a *wrong ball*;
- it becomes the *ball in play*…

Not Permitted (Incorrect) Substitution
(penalty for substitution, if played)

Examples:
- Ball Lifted from Putting Green
- Obstructions (cart paths, etc.)
- Ground Under Repair
- Casual Water
- Identifying Ball
If a player substitutes a ball when not permitted to do so under the Rules, (including an unintentional substitution when a wrong ball is dropped or placed by the player)

- that substituted ball is not a wrong ball;
- it becomes the ball in play…
Rule 15-2. Substituted Ball

If a player *substitutes* a ball when not permitted to do so under the *Rules*, (including an unintentional *substitution* when a *wrong ball* is dropped or placed by the player)

- that *substituted ball* is not a *wrong ball*;
- it becomes the *ball in play*…

**Not Permitted (Incorrect) Substitution**
( penalty for substitution, if played)

**Examples:**
- Ball Lifted from Putting Green
- Obstructions (cart paths, etc.)
- Ground Under Repair
- Casual Water
- Identifying Ball
- Wrong Ball incorrectly thought to be the player’s ball found in unplayable position, lifted and dropped under the unplayable ball procedure (Rule 28b or c)
Rule 15-2. Substituted Ball

... If the mistake is not corrected as provided in Rule 20-6 and the player makes a stroke at a wrongly an incorrectly substituted ball,

- he loses the hole in match play or
- incurs a penalty of two strokes in stroke play under the applicable Rule and, in stroke play, must play out the hole with the substituted ball.

Failure to Correct Not Permitted (Incorrect) Substitution Before Playing Substituted Ball
Wrong Ball

A “wrong ball” is any ball other than the player’s:

- **ball in play**;
- **provisional ball**;* or
- **second ball*** played under
  - Rule 3-3 or
  - Rule 20-7c
in stroke play…

Misleading Examples of Wrong Balls Deleted
Wrong Ball

...and includes:

• another player’s ball;

• an abandoned ball; and

• the player’s original ball when it is no longer in play.

Note: Ball in play includes a ball substituted for the ball in play, whether or not the substitution is permitted.
Wrong Ball

...and includes:

• another player’s ball;
• an abandoned ball; and
• the player’s original ball when it is no longer in play.

Note: Ball in play includes a ball substituted for the ball in play, whether or not the substitution is permitted.
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3-3. Doubt as to Procedure

a. Procedure for Competitor

In stroke play only, if a competitor is doubtful of his rights or the correct procedure during the play of a hole, he may, without penalty, complete the hole with two balls. To proceed under this Rule, he must decide to play two balls after the doubtful situation has arisen and before taking further action (e.g. making a stroke at the original ball).
3-3. Doubt as to Procedure

a. Procedure
In stroke play only, if a competitor is doubtful of his rights or the correct procedure during the play of a hole, he may, without penalty, complete the hole with two balls.

After the doubtful situation has arisen and before taking further action, the competitor must announce to his marker or fellow-competitor that he intends to play two balls and which ball he wishes to count if the Rules permit.

The competitor must report the facts of the situation to the Committee before returning his score card. If he fails to do so, he is disqualified.

Notes:
- If the competitor takes further action before dealing with the doubtful situation, Rule 3-3 is not applicable. The score with the original ball counts or, if the original ball is not one of the balls being played, the score with the first ball put into play counts, even if the Rules do not allow the procedure adopted for that ball. However, the competitor incurs no penalty for having played a second ball, and any penalty strokes incurred solely by playing that ball do not count in his score.
- If the competitor fails to announce in advance his decision to complete the hole with two balls, or both ball he wishes to count, the score with the original ball counts, provided it has been played in accordance with the Rules. If the original ball is not one of the balls being played, the first ball put into play counts, provided it has been played in accordance with the Rules. Otherwise, the score with the other ball counts if the Rules allow the procedure adopted for that ball.

b. Determination of Score for Hole
(i) If the ball that the competitor selected in advance to count has been played in accordance with the Rules, the score with that ball is the competitor’s score for the hole. Otherwise, the score with the other ball counts if the Rules allow the procedure adopted for that ball.
(ii) If the competitor fails to announce in advance his decision to complete the hole with two balls, or both ball he wishes to count, the score with the original ball counts, provided it has been played in accordance with the Rules. If the original ball is not one of the balls being played, the first ball put into play counts, provided it has been played in accordance with the Rules. Otherwise, the score with the other ball counts if the Rules allow the procedure adopted for that ball.

Note 1: If a competitor plays a second ball under Rule 3-3, the strokes made after this Rule has been invoked with the ball ruled not to count and penalty strokes incurred solely by playing that ball are disregarded.

Note 2: A second ball played under Rule 3-3 is not a provisional ball under Rule 27-2.
**Decision Withdrawn:**

**3-3/0.5 Guidelines for Determining Which Ball Counts When Player Proceeds Under Rule 3-3**

...and incorporated into the revised language
3-3. Doubt as to Procedure

a. Procedure for Competitor

In stroke play only, if a competitor is
- doubtful of his rights or
- the correct procedure during the play of a hole, he may, without penalty, complete the hole with two balls....

“I’m not sure if I’m entitled to relief. I’ll play out with two balls”
3-3. Doubt as to Procedure

a. Procedure for Competitor

... To proceed under this Rule, he must decide to play two balls

- after the doubtful situation has arisen and
- before taking further action (e.g., making a stroke at the original ball.)

“I'm not sure if I’m entitled to relief. I’ll play out with two balls”
3-3. Doubt as to Procedure

a. Procedure for Competitor

The competitor should announce to his marker or a fellow-competitor

- that he intends to play two balls and
- which ball he wishes to count if the Rules permit the procedure used for that ball.

“I want to score with this ball.”
3-3. Doubt as to Procedure

a. Procedure for Competitor

...The competitor should announce to his marker or a fellow-competitor that he intends to play two balls and which ball he wishes to count if the Rules permit the procedure used for that ball.

Phrases previously used by this Rule:

“if the Rule permit”

“if the Rules allow the procedure adopted for that ball”

“[the ball] has been played in accordance with the Rules”
3-3. Doubt as to Procedure

a. Procedure for Competitor

Before returning his score card, the competitor must

• report the facts to the Committee.

• If he fails to do so, he is disqualified.

“I played out the 5th hole with two balls.”
3-3. Doubt as to Procedure

a. Procedure for Competitor

If the *competitor* has taken further action before deciding to play two balls,

- he has not proceeded under Rule 3-3 and
- the score with the original ball counts....
a. Procedure for Competitor

If the competitor has taken further action before deciding to play two balls,

- he has not proceeded under Rule 3-3 and
- the score with the original ball counts.

The competitor incurs no penalty for playing the second ball.
b. **Committee** Determination of Score for Hole

(i) If, before taking further action,

- the *competitor* has announced which ball he wishes to count and
- provided the *Rules* permit the procedure used for the selected ball,

the score with that ball counts....
3-3. Doubt as to Procedure

b. **Committee Determination of Score for Hole**

(i) ... If the *Rules* do not permit the procedure used for the selected ball,

- the score with the other ball counts
- provided the *Rules* permit the procedure used for that ball.
3-3. Doubt as to Procedure

b. Committee Determination of Score for Hole

(ii) If, before taking further action, the competitor has failed to announce which ball he wishes to count,

- the score with the original ball counts
- provided the Rules permit the procedure used for that ball....

“I didn’t know I was supposed to say which ball I wanted to count.”
3-3. Doubt as to Procedure

b. **Committee Determination of Score for Hole**

(ii) ...Otherwise,

- the score with the other ball counts
- provided the *Rules* permit the procedure used for that ball.

“I didn’t know I was supposed to say which ball I wanted to count.”

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b. Committee Determination of Score for Hole

(iii) If the Rules do not permit the procedures used for both balls,

- the score with the original ball counts
- unless the competitor has committed a serious breach with that ball by playing from a wrong place....
b. **Committee Determination of Score for Hole**

(iii) ...If the *competitor* commits a serious breach in the play of one ball,

- the score with the other ball counts
- despite the fact that the *Rules* do not permit the procedure used for that ball....

"Are you telling me I didn’t use a correct procedure with either ball?"
3-3. Doubt as to Procedure

b. Committee Determination of Score for Hole

(iii) ...If the competitor

• commits a serious breach with both balls,
• he is disqualified.
3-3. Doubt as to Procedure

Note 1: “Rules permit the procedure used for a ball” means that, after Rule 3-3 is invoked, either:

(a) the original ball
   - is played from where it had come to rest and
   - play is permitted from that location, or

(b) the Rules permit the procedure adopted for the ball
   - and the ball is put into play in the proper manner
   - and in the correct place as provided in the Rules.
3-3. Doubt as to Procedure

Note 1: “Rules permit the procedure used for a ball” means that, after Rule 3-3 is invoked, either:

(a) the original ball
   - is played from where it had come to rest and
   - play is permitted from that location, or

(b) the Rules permit the procedure adopted for the ball
   - and the ball is put into play in the proper manner
   - and in the correct place as provided in the Rules.
3-3. Doubt as to Procedure

**Note 2:** If the score with the original ball is to count,

- but the original ball is not one of the balls being played,
- the first ball put into play is deemed to be the original ball.
3-3. Doubt as to Procedure

Note 3: After this Rule has been invoked,

• *strokes* made with the ball ruled not to count, and

• *penalty strokes* incurred solely by playing that ball, are disregarded.

A second ball played under Rule 3-3 is not a *provisional ball* under Rule 27-2.

(Ball played from wrong place – see Rule 20-7c)
8-2 Indicating Line of Play

8-2a Other Than on Putting Green

Except on the *putting green*, a player may have the *line of play* indicated to him by anyone, but no one may be positioned by the player for that purpose on or close to:

- the line
- an extension of the line beyond the hole

while the stroke is being made...

“Other Than on Putting Green” =

- the teeing ground
- through the green
- a hazard
8-2 Indicating Line of Play

8-2a Other Than on Putting Green
Except on the *putting green*, a player may have the *line of play* indicated to him by anyone, but no one may be positioned by the player *for that purpose* on or close to

- the line or
- an extension of the line beyond the *hole*

while the *stroke* is being made....

The phrase “for that purpose” added
8-2 Indicating Line of Play

8-2a Other Than on Putting Green

...Any mark placed

• by the player or

• with his knowledge
to indicate, for the purpose of indicating the line of play, must be removed before the stroke is made.

Exception: Flagstick attended or held up—see Rule 17-1.
8-2 Indicating Line of Play

8-2b. On the Putting Green
When the player’s ball is on the putting green, the line of putt may be indicated
• before, but not during the stroke,
• by the player, his partner or either of their caddies;
may, before but not during the stroke, point out a line for putting, but
in so doing so the putting green must not be touched.

Term “Line for Putting” Eliminated
(no more “Line of Putt” vs. “Line for Putting” Confusion)
8-2 Indicating Line of Play

8-2b. On the Putting Green

When the player’s ball is on the putting green, the line of putt may be indicated

- before, but not during the stroke,
- by the player, his partner or either of their caddies;

may, before but not during the stroke, point out a line for putting, but

in so doing so the putting green must not be touched.

A mark must not be placed anywhere to indicate for the purpose of indicating a line for putting of putt.

(Touching line of putt – see Rule 16-1a)
8-2 Indicating Line of Play

8-2b. On the Putting Green

When the player’s ball is on the putting green, the line of putt may be indicated:

- before, but not during the stroke,
- by the player, his partner or either of their caddies;

may, before but not during the stroke, point out a line for putting, but in so doing so the putting green must not be touched.

A mark must not be placed anywhere to indicate for the purpose of indicating a line for putting.

(Touching line of putt – see Rule 16-1a)
12-1 Searching For Ball; Seeing Ball

12-1a Searching for or Identifying Ball Covered by Sand

If the ball is *moved*

- during the touching or moving of sand while searching for or identifying the ball or
- during the re-creation of the lie,

there is no penalty; the ball must be replaced and the lie re-created.

Oversight Corrected
25-2 Embedded Ball

A If a player’s ball is embedded in its own pitch-mark in the ground in any closely-mown area through the green, it may be lifted, cleaned and dropped, without penalty, as near as possible to the spot where it lay but not nearer the hole....

Meaning of “Embedded” Incorporated in New Note 1 and Permission to Adopt Local Rule in New Note 3
25-2 Embedded Ball

Note 1: A ball is “embedded”

• when it is in its own pitch-mark and
• part of the ball is below the level of the ground….
25-2 Embedded Ball

Note 1: A ball is “embedded”
- when it is in its own pitch-mark and
- part of the ball is below the level of the ground.

A ball does not necessarily have to touch the soil to be embedded (e.g. grass, *loose impediments* and the like may intervene between the ball and the soil)....
25-2 Embedded Ball

**Note 2:** “Closely-mown area” means any area of the course, including paths through the rough, cut to fairway height or less.

**Note 3:** The Committee may adopt the Local Rule as provided for in Appendix I allowing a player relief, without penalty, for a ball embedded anywhere through the green.
25-2 Embedded Ball

Note 2: “Closely-mown area” means any area of the course, including paths through the rough, cut to fairway height or less.

Note 3: The Committee may adopt the Local Rule as provided for in Appendix I, allowing a player relief, without penalty, for a ball embedded anywhere through the green.
26-2. BALL PLAYED WITHIN WATER HAZARD

a. Ball Comes to Rest in Same or Another Water Hazard

If a ball played from within a water hazard comes to rest in the same or another water hazard after the stroke, the player may:

(i) proceed under Rule 26-1a. If, after dropping in the hazard, the player elects not to play the dropped ball, he may:
   (a) proceed under Rule 26-1b, or if applicable Rule 26-1c, adding the additional penalty of one stroke prescribed by the Rule and using as the reference point the point where the original ball last crossed the margin of this hazard before it came to rest in this hazard; or
   (b) add an additional penalty of one stroke and play a ball as nearly as possible at the point from which the last stroke from outside a water hazard was made (see Rule 20-5); or
   (ii) proceed under Rule 26-1b, or if applicable Rule 26-1c; or
   (iii) under penalty of one stroke, play a ball as nearly as possible at the point from which the last stroke from outside a water hazard was made (see Rule 20-5).

b. Ball Lost or Unplayable Outside Hazard or Out of Bounds

If a ball played from within a water hazard is lost or deemed unplayable outside the hazard or is out of bounds, the player may, after taking a penalty of one stroke under Rule 27-1 or 28a:

(i) play a ball as nearly as possible at the point in the hazard from which the original ball was last played (see Rule 20-5); or
(ii) proceed under Rule 26-1b, or if applicable Rule 26-1c, adding the additional penalty of one stroke prescribed by the Rule and using as the reference point the point where the original ball last crossed the margin of the hazard before it came to rest in the hazard; or
(iii) add an additional penalty of one stroke and play a ball as nearly as possible at the point from which the last stroke from outside a water hazard was made (see Rule 20-5).

Note 1: When proceeding under Rule 26-2b, the player is not required to drop a ball under Rule 27-1 or 28a. If he does drop a ball, he is not required to play it. He may alternatively proceed under Rule 26-2b(ii) or (iii).

Note 2: If a ball played from within a water hazard is deemed unplayable outside the hazard, nothing in Rule 26-2b precludes the player from proceeding under Rule 28b or c.

**Penalty for Breach of Rule:**

Match play – Loss of hole; Stroke play – Two strokes.
26-2a. Ball Comes to Rest in Same or Another Water Hazard

If a ball played from within a *water hazard* comes to rest in the same or another water hazard after the stroke, the player may:

(i) under penalty of one stroke, play a ball as nearly as possible at the spot from which the last stroke from outside a *water hazard* was made (see Rule 20-5); or....

**Regression**

For ONE STROKE, go from:
- current location
- to spot of last stroke outside hazard
26-2a. Ball Comes to Rest in Same or Another Water Hazard

If a ball played from within a water hazard comes to rest in the same or another water hazard after the stroke, the player may...

(ii) proceed under Rule - 26-1a...

incurring the penalty of one stroke under that Rule....

**Rule 26-1a**

Proceed under the stroke and distance provision of Rule 27-1 by playing a ball as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was last played (see Rule 20-5);
26-2a. Ball Comes to Rest in Same or Another Water Hazard

If a ball played from within a water hazard comes to rest in the same or another water hazard after the stroke, the player may...

(ii) proceed under Rule 26-1a. 26-1b...

incurring the penalty of one stroke under that Rule....

Rule 26-1b
Drop a ball behind the water hazard, keeping the point at which the original ball last crossed the margin of the water hazard directly between the hole and the spot on which the ball is dropped, with no limit to how far behind the water hazard the ball may be dropped...
If a ball played from within a water hazard comes to rest in the same or another water hazard after the stroke, the player may...

(ii) proceed under Rule...

- ... or, if applicable, 26-1c...

incurring the penalty of one stroke under that Rule....

**Rule 26-1c**

As additional options available only if the ball last crossed the margin of a lateral water hazard, drop a ball outside the water hazard within two club-lengths of and not nearer the hole than...

(i) the point where the original ball last crossed the margin of the water hazard or...
26-2a. Ball Comes to Rest in Same or Another Water Hazard

If a ball played from within a water hazard comes to rest in the same or another water hazard after the stroke, the player may...

(ii) proceed under Rule

   - ... or, if applicable, 26-1c...

   incurring the penalty of one stroke under that Rule....

**Rule 26-1c**

As additional options available only if the ball last crossed the margin of a lateral water hazard, drop a ball outside the water hazard within two club-lengths of and not nearer the hole than

(ii) a point on the opposite margin of the water hazard equidistant from the hole....
26-2a. Ball Comes to Rest in Same or Another Water Hazard

If a ball played from within a *water hazard* comes to rest in the same or another *water hazard* after the *stroke*, the player may...

(ii) proceed under Rule

- ... or, if applicable, 26-1c...

incurring the penalty of one stroke under that Rule.

For purposes of applying Rule 26-1b or 26-1c, the reference point is the point where the original ball *last crossed the margin of the hazard* in which it lies.
26-2a. Ball Comes to Rest in Same or Another Water Hazard

**Note:** If the player proceeds under Rule 26-1a

- by dropping a ball in the hazard as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was last played,
- but elects not to play the dropped ball...
26-2a. Ball Comes to Rest in Same or Another Water Hazard

**Note:** If the player proceeds under Rule 26-1a

- by dropping a ball in the *hazard* as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was last played,
- but elects not to play the dropped ball,

he may then proceed under

- Clause (i) above
26-2a. Ball Comes to Rest in Same or Another Water Hazard

**Note:** If the player proceeds under Rule 26-1a

- by dropping a ball in the hazard as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was last played,
- but elects not to play the dropped ball,

he may then proceed under

- Clause (i) above
- Rule 26-1b,
26-2a. Ball Comes to Rest in Same or Another Water Hazard

**Note:** If the player proceeds under Rule 26-1a

- by dropping a ball in the *hazard* as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was last played,
- but elects not to play the dropped ball,

he may then proceed under

- Clause (i) above
- Rule 26-1b,
- or, if applicable, Rule 26-1c(i)
26-2a. Ball Comes to Rest in Same or Another Water Hazard

**Note:** If the player proceeds under Rule 26-1a

- by dropping a ball in the hazard as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was last played,
- but elects not to play the dropped ball,

he may then proceed under

- Clause (i) above
- Rule 26-1b,
- or, if applicable, Rule 26-1c(ii)
26-2a. Ball Comes to Rest in Same or Another Water Hazard

**Note:** ...he may then proceed under
- Clause (i) above
- Rule 26-1b,
- or, if applicable, Rule 26-1c

If he does so, he incurs a total of two penalty strokes:
- the penalty of one stroke for proceeding under Rule 26-1a...
26-2a. Ball Comes to Rest in Same or Another Water Hazard

**Note:** ...he may then proceed under

- Clause (i) above
- Rule 26-1b,
- or, if applicable, Rule 26-1c

If he does so, he incurs a total of two penalty strokes:

- the penalty of one stroke for proceeding under Rule 26-1a,
- and an additional penalty of one stroke for then proceeding under Clause (i) above, Rule 26-1b or Rule 26-1c.
Ball Played Within Water Hazard

a. Procedure for Competitor

In stroke play only, if a competitor is doubtful of his rights or the correct procedure during the play of a hole, he may, without penalty, complete the hole with two balls.

To proceed under this Rule, he must decide to play two balls after the doubtful situation has arisen and before taking further action (e.g., making a stroke at the original ball).

**Penalty for Breach of Rule:**

- Matchplay: Loss of hole; Strokeplay: Two strokes.

**Rule 26**

2.2.1. Ball Comes to Rest in Same or Another Water Hazard

b. Ball Lost or Unplayable Outside Hazard or Out of Bounds

If a ball played from within a water hazard comes to rest in the same or another water hazard after the stroke, the player may:

- Drop the ball as nearly as possible to the point where the ball last crossed the margin of the water hazard and play a ball as nearly as possible to the spot from which the original ball last crossed the margin of the water hazard.

**Penalty for Breach of Rule:**

- Matchplay: Loss of hole; Strokeplay: Two strokes.

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**Rule 26**

2.2.1. Ball Comes to Rest in Same or Another Water Hazard

b. Ball Lost or Unplayable Outside Hazard or Out of Bounds

If a ball played from within a water hazard comes to rest in the same or another water hazard after the stroke, the player may:

- Drop the ball as nearly as possible to the point where the last stroke came to rest in the water hazard or out of bounds.

**Penalty for Breach of Rule:**

- Matchplay: Loss of hole; Strokeplay: Two strokes.
27-2. Provisional Ball

a. Procedure
If a ball
  - may be *lost* outside a *water hazard* or
  - may be *out of bounds*,
to save time the player may play another ball provisionally in accordance with Rule 27-1.....

Revised for Clarity
27-2. Provisional Ball

a. Procedure

The player must inform:

(i) announce to

• his opponent in match play or
• his marker or a fellow-competitor in stroke play

that he intends to play a provisional ball, and he must play it before he or his partner goes forward to search for the original ball and...

See Decision 27-2a/1 (Announcement of Provisional Ball) regarding requirements of the announcing procedure

“I intend to play a provisional ball”
27-2. Provisional Ball

a. Procedure
The player must...
(ii) play the *provisional ball* before
• he or
• his *partner*

goes forward to search for the original ball.

See Decision 27-2a/1 (Announcement of Provisional Ball) regarding requirements of the announcing procedure
a. Procedure
If a player fails to do so and plays meet the above requirements prior to playing another ball,

- that ball
  - is not a provisional ball and
  - becomes the ball in play under penalty of stroke and distance (Rule 27-1);
- the original ball is lost.
27-2. Provisional Ball

a. Procedure

If he a player fails to do so and plays meet the above requirements prior to playing another ball,

• that ball
  – is not a provisional ball and
  – becomes the ball in play under penalty of stroke and distance (Rule 27-1);
• the original ball is lost.

See Decision 27-2a/1 (Announcement of Provisional Ball) regarding requirements of the announcing procedure.
32-2. Disqualification Penalties

a. From the Competition

A competitor is disqualified from the competition if he incurs a penalty of disqualification under any of the following:

- Rule 6-7 — Undue Delay; Slow Play
- Rule 6-8 — Discontinuance of Play
- Rule 7-1 — Practice Before or Between Rounds
- Rule 10-2c — Playing Out of Turn
- Rule 11-1 — Teeing
- Rule 14-3 — Artificial Devices, Unusual Equipment
- Rule 22-1 — Ball Assisting Play
- Rule 33-7 — Disqualification Penalty Imposed by Committee

Rule 10-2c

... If, however, the Committee determines that competitors have agreed to play out of turn to give one of them an advantage, they are disqualified.
33-1. Conditions; Waiving Rule

...The number of holes of a *stipulated round* must not be reduced once play has commenced for that round....

New Text Added
34-1. Claims and Penalties

b. Stroke Play

(iii) returned a score for any hole lower than actually taken (Rule 6-6d) for any reason other than

• failure to include one or more penalty strokes

• that, before the competition closed, he did not know he had incurred;

or…
Appendixes

Appendix I
Parts A & B were combined so that the policies and the Specimen Local Rules are adjacent (not consecutive). What was Part C Conditions is now Part B.

Appendixes II and III
The preambles from Rules 4 & 5 were moved to here.

Appendix IV
The wording for Distance Measuring Devices (part 5) was changed to reflect the new right to use devices that contain prohibited functions as long as those functions are not used.
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The wording for Distance Measuring Devices (part 5) was changed to reflect the new right to use devices that contain prohibited functions as long as those functions are not used.
Other Changes

Questions
Overview

Four Major Changes
Definition Changes
Clarifications and Minor Changes