

MODERNIZING GOLF'S RULES: KEY CHANGES

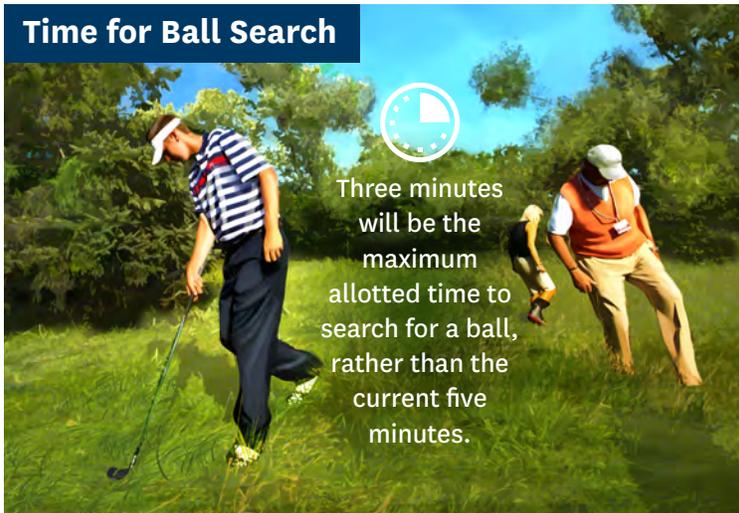
The R&A and the USGA released a preview of golf's proposed Rules, which are due to take effect on January 1, 2019. Here are five of the most significant changes.

How to Drop a Ball

You will be able to drop a ball from any distance above the ground, provided it doesn't touch anything and falls through the air when dropped.



Time for Ball Search



Three minutes will be the maximum allotted time to search for a ball, rather than the current five minutes.

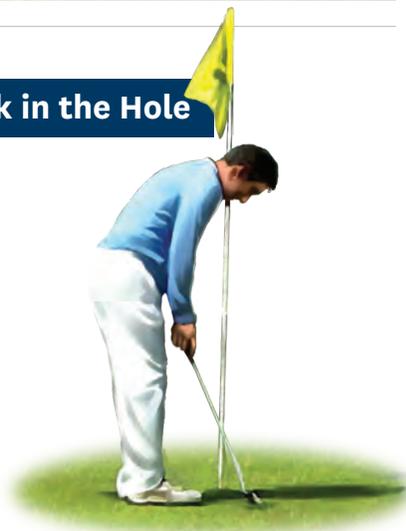
Repairing Spike Marks



It will be OK to repair spike marks and any other damage done by shoes, damage from a club and almost all other damage on the putting green.

Leaving Flagstick in the Hole

If you make a stroke from on the green and your ball hits the flagstick in the hole, there will be no penalty.



Relaxed Rules in Penalty Area

You are allowed to ground your club and move loose impediments in a penalty area (an expanded concept of water hazards).



Tell us what you think about the proposed Rules changes.

We welcome feedback at usga.org and randa.org through August 31, 2017. The new Rules will go into effect January 1, 2019.

