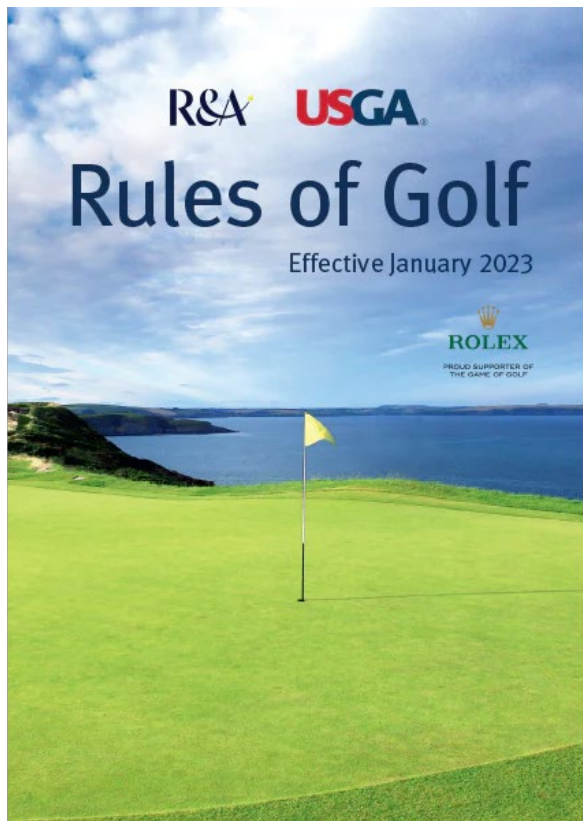




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# 2023 Rules of Golf Workshops

**Presented by the CDGA in  
association with the USGA**

**The following material is meant to supplement the presentation. Included information is as follows:**

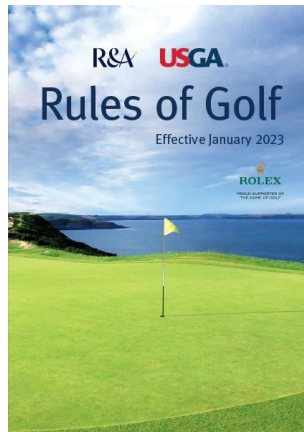
- **Rules Reference Material**
- **Highlighted Changes from the 2023 Rules Changes**
- **Rules everyone should know**
- **Frequently used Model Local Rules**
- **Additional Infographics**
- **Sample Hard Cards from the USGA & CDGA**

# Rules of Golf: At your fingertips



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**USGA.org is a great resource for all things Rules of Golf related  
Check back often as new material is posted periodically.**



## **Primary resource for players**

- Full text of all publications are available for Android in the Google Play store and on iOS in the Apple Store

## **Primary resource for officials**

- Full Version covering all the playing Rules
- Includes explanatory images and diagrams
- Available digitally and as large-size print publication

## **Supplementary resource for officials**

- Replaces Decisions book and provides long-form guidance to assist with officiating and administration
- Includes the Rules of Golf, Interpretations, Committee Procedures, and Modified Rules of Golf for Players with Disabilities

# Highlighted Rules Changes from 2023



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## 2023 RULES OF GOLF: 5 KEY CHANGES

The R&A and the USGA have released the most recent edition of the Rules of Golf, effective January 2023.

### HERE ARE 5 KEY CHANGES

#### New Rule — Modifications for Players with Disabilities

These modifications are now part of the Rules and are in effect for all competitions and all players who fall under the categories covered in new Rule 25.



#### Replacing Damaged Clubs

If your club is damaged during a round (except in cases of abuse) you may replace it, repair it or continue to use it.



#### Ball Moved by Natural Forces

When your ball is at rest after taking relief and then rolls into another area of the course due to natural causes, there is no penalty, and you must replace it.



#### Simplified Back-on- the-Line Relief

When using this relief option, you are required to drop your ball on the line, and it may roll up to one club-length in any direction.



#### Handicap on Scorecard (Stroke Play Only)

You are not required to put your handicap on your scorecard and there is no penalty if you return your scorecard in a competition with an incorrect handicap, as this is now the Committee's responsibility.

This change is consistent with other penalty reductions, such as reducing the penalty for playing an incorrectly substituted ball from the general penalty to one stroke.



For more information on the Rules of Golf, please visit [usga.org](https://usga.org) or [randa.org](https://randa.org).

**R&A**

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# Principal Changes Introduced in the 2023 Rules of Golf



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## Specific Rules

### **Rule 1.3c(4) Applying Penalties to Multiple Breaches of the Rules**

The Rule has been amended so that determining whether breaches are related or unrelated is no longer part of its application, meaning that there will be fewer instances where multiple penalties will be applied.

### **Rule 3.3b(4) Player Not Responsible for Showing Handicap on Scorecard or Adding Up Scores**

The Rule has been amended so that a player is no longer required to show their handicap on their scorecard. The Committee is responsible for calculating the player's handicap strokes for the competition and using that to calculate the player's net score.

### **Rule 4.1a(2) Use, Repair or Replacement of Club Damaged During Round**

The Rule has been amended to allow a player to replace a damaged club, provided the club has not been damaged through abuse.

**Rule 6.3b(3) Substitution of Another Ball While Playing a Hole** The penalty for playing an incorrectly substituted ball has been reduced from the general penalty to one penalty stroke.

### **Rule 9.3 Ball Moved by Natural Forces**

New Exception 2 provides that a ball must be replaced if it moves to another area of the course after being dropped, placed or replaced. This also applies if the ball comes to rest out of bounds.

### **Rule 10.2b Other Help**

Rule 10.2b has been rewritten for clarity and to incorporate the key principles of the Clarifications issued in April 2019 to support the 2019 Rule.

Rules 10.2b(1) and (2) have been amended to provide that neither the caddie nor any other person is allowed to set an object down to help the player with the line of play or other directional information (such as when the player cannot see the flagstick), and the player cannot avoid penalty by having the object removed before the stroke is made.



# Principal Changes Introduced in the 2023 Rules of Golf



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## **Rule 11.1b Ball in Motion Accidentally Hits Person or Outside Influence: Place from Where Ball Must Be Played**

Rule 11.1b has been rewritten for clarity.

Rule 11.1b(2) has been amended to provide that if a ball played from the putting green hits an insect, the player or the club used to make the stroke, the ball is played as it lies – the stroke is not replayed.

## **Rule 21.1c Penalties in Stableford**

The Rule is amended to provide that penalties in relation to clubs, time of starting and unreasonable delay will now be applied to the hole in the same way as regular stroke play. The same amendment is made to Rule 21.3c (Penalties in Par/Bogey).

## **Rule 25 Modifications for Players with Disabilities**

The introduction of new Rule 25 means that the modifications provided in the Rule apply to all competitions, including all forms of play.

## **General Changes**

### **Back-on-the-Line Relief Procedure**

The backonthe line relief procedure is amended to provide that the player is required to drop on the line. The spot on the line where the ball first touches the ground when dropped creates a relief area that is one clublength in any direction from that point. This amendment is reflected in changes to Rules 14.3b(3), 16.1c(2), 17.1d(2), 19.2b and 19.3, and the definition of relief area.

### **How to Proceed When Stroke Must Be Replayed**

Several Rules that used the phrase “stroke does not count” (such as Rule 11.1b) have been amended so that the failure to replay a stroke when required to do so, while still a breach of the relevant Rule, no longer carries the potential for disqualification.





# 2019 vs 2023 Rules Change Comparisons



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## Outcome Changes: 2019 Rules to 2023 Rules Comparison

This chart summarizes the substantive changes between the 2019 and 2023 Rules of Golf. While this document provides more detail than the principal changes noted in the front of both the Rules of Golf and Official Guide to the Rules of Golf, it does not detail every minor change that has been made. This chart does not detail points that were covered by the 2019 – 2022 Clarifications document as many of those points have been incorporated into the applicable Rule without the outcome changing.

Rules Reference	Topic	2019 Outcome	2023 Outcome	Additional Notes
1.3b(2)	Determining the area of the course where the ball lies, including whether the ball lies on the course. Determining whether the ball touches or is in or on an abnormal course condition	Unclear when "reasonable judgment" should be applied to these determinations.	"Reasonable judgment" applies when determining the area of the course where the ball lies, if it lies in or out of bounds, or if it touches or is in or on an abnormal course condition.	
1.3c(4)	A player breaches different Rules or the same Rule multiple times	While there are exceptions, a player gets multiple penalties if the breaches are unrelated. If the breaches are related, the player gets multiple penalties only when there has been an intervening event.	Committees no longer have to determine whether acts are related or unrelated. Intervening events are used to determine whether a player gets multiple penalties. There are only two intervening events: completion of a stroke and awareness of a breach..	Recommend reading the Rule and associated Clarifications in detail to understand the revised Rule.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL DOCUMENT](#)



# Distance Measuring Devices



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**EFFECTIVE 2019**

## UNDERSTANDING THE RULES OF DMDs

Beginning on January 1, 2019, distance-measuring devices (DMDs) are allowed under the Rules of Golf. Take a look below to see what types of functions on your DMD are allowed under the Rules.

### WHAT'S THE RULE?

**Rule 4.3a** allows the use of distance-measuring devices so long as the player does not access any information that is prohibited under this Rule (details below). The first breach of this Rule means the player gets a loss of hole penalty in match play or a two-stroke penalty in stroke play. A second breach of Rule 4.3 during the same round results in disqualification. NOTE: A golf course or the Committee in charge of a competition does have the option to prohibit the use of distance-measuring devices by Local Rule.

### TYPES OF DEVICES

#### STAND-ALONE DEVICES

Common stand-alone devices include laser rangefinders, handhelds and watch-style GPS units.



Laser rangefinder



GPS watch



Handheld GPS unit

#### MULTI-FUNCTIONAL DEVICES

Common multi-functional devices include mobile phones and tablets.



Mobile phone



Tablet



### PLAYER ACTIONS

A player may use a device that is capable of operating a prohibited function, provided these specific functions are not accessed by the player during the round. "Access" is interpreted to mean that the player has viewed or otherwise used the information generated by a prohibited function, or the player uses a device where such output is displayed.

#### WHAT CAN I ACCESS?



Distance between two points (actual)



Pre-published information (e.g., swing tips or advice on playing the hole)



Scorecard



Local weather information or alert for nearby lightning



Chart showing average club distances, obtained from prior rounds, for a wide range of clubs

#### WHAT CAN'T I ACCESS?



Displays of effective playing distances (e.g., slope-based and other plays-like distance information)



Club recommendation



Processed or analyzed club distances from current round



Gauged or measured variable environmental conditions, such as wind speed or altitude



Analysis or display of swing, set-up or other swing mechanics

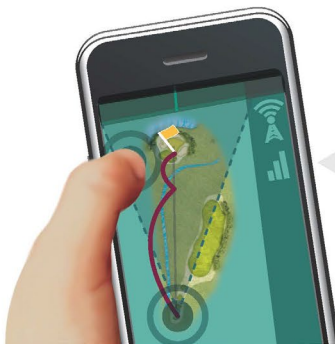


### USE ADDITIONAL CARE

If a device is readily viewable by the player (e.g., the player is wearing a multi-functional watch) and information is being displayed that, if accessed, would result in a breach of the Rules, the player is considered to have "used" the information generated by a prohibited function, even if the player has not actually viewed it.



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## RULES OF GOLF – EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2019

# Anchoring the Club — Understanding Rule 10.1b



### WHAT CHANGES?

**Rule 10-1b** — prohibits strokes made with the club or a hand gripping the club held directly against the player's body or with a forearm held against the body to establish an anchor point that indirectly anchors the club.

### WHAT THE RULE SAYS

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

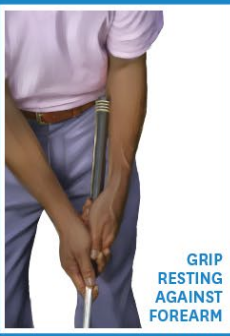
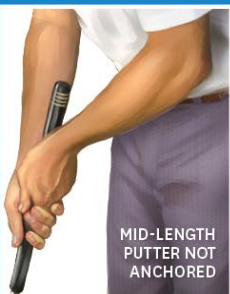
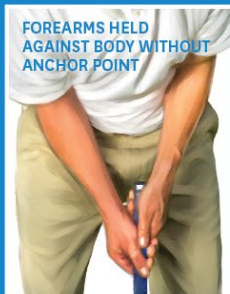
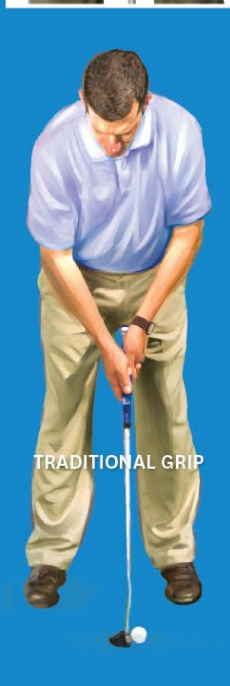
- Directly, by holding the club or a gripping hand against any part of the body (except that the player may hold the club or a gripping hand against a hand or forearm), or
- Indirectly, through use of an "anchor point," by holding a forearm against any part of the body to use a gripping hand as a stable point around which the other hand may swing the club.

If the player's club, gripping hand or forearm merely touches his or her body or clothing during the stroke, without being held against the body, there is no breach of this Rule.

For the purposes of this Rule, "forearm" means the part of the arm below the elbow joint and includes the wrist.

**THIS IS NOT AN EQUIPMENT RULE** — Conforming mid-length and long putters remain permissible provided they are not anchored.

### PERMITTED



### PROHIBITED



**Penalty**  
Anchoring the club in making a stroke brings a two-stroke penalty in stroke play and loss of hole in match play (as with any other breach of Rule 10.1).

**END OF CLUB  
ANCHORED  
AGAINST CHIN**



# CDGA Hard Card – Rules in play for all CDGA Championships & Qualifiers



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## Local Rules and Terms of the Competition For 2023 CDGA Championships



The Rules of Golf as approved by the United States Golf Association and The R&A govern play. These Local Rules and Terms of the Competition are in effect at all CDGA and State championships and qualifying rounds. See applicable championship or qualifying round Notice to Players and Entry Application for modifications or additions to these Local Rules and Terms of the Competition. Complete text of Rules and Local Rules may be found in the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf, effective January 2023. **Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule is the general penalty.**

### Local Rules

**Out of Bounds** – Defined by the line between the course-side points, at ground level, of white stakes and fence posts.

**Penalty Areas** – When a penalty area is defined on only one side, it extends to infinity. When a penalty area is connected to the out-of-bounds edge, the penalty area extends to and coincides with out of bounds.

**Ground Under Repair** – Defined by white lines. French drains are ground under repair.

Ground under repair may include areas of unusual damage, including areas where spectators or other traffic has combined with wet conditions to affect materially the ground surface, but only when so declared by an authorized member of the Committee. When immediately adjacent to an immovable obstruction, such an area is part of the obstruction.

**Relief from Seams of Cut Turf** – Model Local Rule F-7 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.

**Immovable Obstructions** – Include plastic bumpers on roads and paths, and mats secured to the ground with spikes when the bumpers or mats cover cables.

**White-Lined Areas Tying into Artificially Surfaced Roads and Paths** – White-lined areas of ground under repair and the artificially surfaced roads, paths or other identified obstructions that they are connected to are a single abnormal course condition when taking relief under Rule 16.1.

**Wood Chips and Mulch** – Are loose impediments.

**Integral Objects** – Include objects when closely attached to trees and boundary objects, and artificial walls and pilings when located in penalty areas or in or adjacent to bunkers, and bunker liners.

**Footwear** – Model Local Rule G-7 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures as well as the CDGA Championship Policies is in effect.

**Code of Conduct** – Local Rule as prescribed in the CDGA Championship Policies is in effect. Committee Procedure 51 as permitted by Rule 1.2b. **Penalty Structure:**

First Breach – Warning or Committee sanction

Second Breach – General Penalty

Third Breach or any serious misconduct – Disqualification

**List of Conforming Driver Heads** – Model Local Rule G-1 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.

**List of Conforming Golf Balls** – Model Local Rule G-3 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.

**Broken or Significantly Damaged Club** – Model Local Rule G-9 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.

**Missing Player or Marker Certification** – Model Local Rule L-1 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.

**Pace of Play** – See separate memorandum to players for pace of play policy, when applicable.

**Stopping and Resuming Play** – Model Local Rule J-1 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.

All practice areas are closed during an immediate suspension for a dangerous situation until the Committee has declared them open. Players who practice on closed practice areas will be asked to stop practicing; failure to stop might result in disqualification.

An immediate suspension will be signaled by one prolonged airhorn note. All other types of suspension will be signaled by three consecutive airhorn notes. Resumption of play will be signaled by two short airhorn notes.

**Practice** – Prior to and after a round in stroke play, a player may practice on the designated practice areas. Rule 5.2b covering practice in stroke play is modified in this way: A player may not practice on the competition course before or between rounds. Penalty for breach of Local Rule, see Rule 5.2.

**Prohibiting Use of Motorized Transportation** – Model Local Rule G-6 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect at ONLY the Championship of the CDGA Amateur Championship and Illinois State Amateur Championship.

During a round players or caddies must not ride on any form of motorized transportation except as authorized or later approved by the Committee.

**Exception:** 1) Motorized transportation is permissible in all other CDGA/State run championships and qualifiers.

2) Caddies may ride at **qualifiers** for IL State Amateur and CDGA Amateur.

**When competition is Final** – The competition is final when the trophy has been presented to the winner or, in the absence of a prize ceremony, when all scores have been approved by the Committee

### Terms of the Competition

**Alcohol, Marijuana, and Controlled Substance Policy** – As noted in the CDGA Championship Policies – During the round or any delay should a player or caddie consume, be under the influence of, or have in his/her possession any alcohol, marijuana or controlled substance, the player will be disqualified from that tournament. In the event the Committee determines serious misconduct has occurred, the player and/or caddie will also be suspended from all CDGA events for a minimum of 12 months. The player may appeal any such suspension to the CDGA Championship Policy Committee.

**Communication Devices** – As noted in the CDGA Championship Policies – During the round these devices carried by either a player or his/her caddie should be kept in silent mode. Use of these devices should be limited to emergencies or specifically-permitted golf purposes, such as checking leaderboards, requesting a ruling, or scoring/accessing CDGA Tournament App. Players will be subject to penalty if their usage of such a device distracts other players.

# USGA Hard Card – Rules in play for all USGA Championships & Qualifiers



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## Local Rules and Terms of the Competition FOR 2023 USGA CHAMPIONSHIPS

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**Ground Under Repair** — Defined by white lines. French drains are ground under repair. For grass-covered trenching, see Temporary Power Lines and Cables.

Ground under repair may include areas of unusual damage, including areas where spectators or other traffic has combined with wet conditions to affect materially the ground surface, but only when so declared by an authorized member of the Committee. When immediately adjacent to an immovable obstruction, such an area is part of that obstruction.

**Relief from Seams of Cut Turf** — Model Local Rule F-7 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.

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**Wood Chips and Mulch** — Are loose impediments.

**Integral Objects** — Include objects when closely attached to trees and boundary objects, and artificial walls and pilings when located in penalty areas or in or adjacent to bunkers, and bunker liners.

An exposed bunker liner may be treated as ground under repair, but interference does not exist if the liner interferes only with the player's stance.

**Temporary Power Lines and Cables** — Model Local Rule F-22 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.

**Temporary Immovable Obstructions** — Model Local Rule F-23 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.

**List of Conforming Driver Heads** — Model Local Rule G-1 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.

**Groove and Punch Mark Specifications** — Model Local Rule G-2 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect, except as modified by the applicable championship entry application.

**List of Conforming Golf Balls** — Model Local Rule G-3 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.

**Prohibiting Use of Motorized Transportation** — Model Local Rule G-6 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.

**Broken or Significantly Damaged Club** — Model Local Rule G-9 as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect.

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