



2023 - Notable Changes to the Rules of Golf

USGA and R&A Rules revisions go into effect on January 1. Changes to be aware of on TOUR include:

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

NEW: The back-on-the-line procedure is now very simple; **the player must drop a ball on the line.**

Once a ball is dropped on the line it may roll up to one club-length in any direction from that spot, including closer to the hole. (See video link).

NOTE: Do **not** mark a spot on the line, and do **not** drop a ball off the line for a better angle to the hole.

<https://vimeo.com/781878301/6975ba5741>

- **Ball at rest rolls to another area of the course after being dropped or placed.**

NEW: If a ball is at rest after being dropped, placed, or replaced and then natural forces causes it to roll to another area of the course, it **must** be replaced. Such as when a ball at rest rolls into a penalty area, into a bunker, onto a putting green, or even OB. (See video link).

NOTE: This is a positive response to situations that have occurred on our Tour (WM Phoenix Open) where a ball was at rest after a player took relief and then rolled back into a penalty area.

<https://vimeo.com/781887987/d526acdb79>

- **Replacement of a Damaged Club.**

NEW: The Rules now allows for a damaged club to be replaced or repaired (except when by abuse).

NOTE: By Local Rule on Tour a club may only be replaced if it is broken or significantly damaged, and the exception for cracks still applies; a clubface or clubhead is **not** broken or significantly damaged solely because it is cracked.

- **Setting down objects to help with Aiming or Line of Play.**

NEW: An object must **not** be set down to help a player take a stance for a stroke, aim a shot, or to show the line of play.

NOTE: e.g., if a towel is placed to show a player the line of play for a blind shot, a penalty applies.

- **Un-Signed Scorecard.**

NEW: A Local Rule will be adopted on the major Tours that reduces the penalty from DQ to two strokes for returning a scorecard without the signature of the player and/or the marker. The penalty will be applied to the final hole of the round.

NOTE: The hole scores recorded in each box on the scorecard must still be correct.

- **Distance Measuring Devices in Pro-Am format tournaments.**

NEW: Amateurs and their caddies **only** will be allowed to use DMDs at The American Express and AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am. This aligns with no restrictions on the amateurs with the one-ball Rule, green-reading materials and the 46-inch club length limitation.

NOTE: Do **not** get advice from a DMD or greens book used by an amateur or their caddie.

- **Committee Approved Yardage Books.**

NEW: In 2023, a Committee approved yardage book from either 2022 or 2023 may be used.

NOTE: The same restrictions on hand-written notes for green reading still apply.

As always, seek a member of your PGA TOUR Rules Committee to discuss any aspect of the Rules.