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The new golf rules 2016



! As of 01/01/2016 new golf rules came into effect. We have summarized the most important changes for you.

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4	6		
4	5	6+2	
3	3		

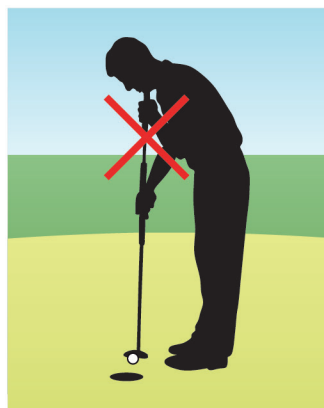
Submission of a score card with fewer strokes than taken (Rule 6-6)

Previously, if a player handed in a score card on which a fewer number of strokes was entered for a hole than was actually taken he was always disqualified.

Now, there is an exception in favor of players who have not recorded penalty strokes because they did not know they had breached the rules. These players are no longer disqualified but are subsequently given the penalty strokes they failed to record, plus an additional penalty of 2 strokes.

Good to know: This rule is mainly of relevance to Committees.

If you have not recorded penalty strokes because you were unaware of the rules, the missing penalty strokes are subsequently added and you also incur 2 additional penalty strokes.



"Anchoring" the club (Rule 14-1)

Previously, certain unusual stroke techniques were permitted too, especially in connection with long putters.

Now, "anchoring" a club is banned, for example a player must not rest or support a club or his hand/forearm against a part of his body. However, long putters as such are still permitted.

Good to know: This rule change only applies to a few individual players. If you use a long putter or a very unusual stroke technique consult your club Pro or the Committee, just to be on the safe side.

You are not permitted to rest or support your club against a part of your body when playing a stroke.

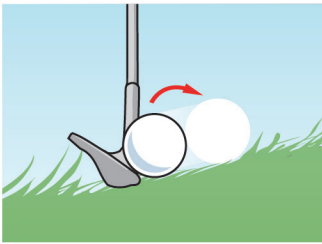


Prohibited devices (Rule 14-3)

Previously, a player who used an artificial device or unusual equipment was immediately disqualified.

Now, the penalty is applied in stages - with the first infringement the player incurs 2 penalty strokes (in match play, he loses the hole) and he is only disqualified if he breaches the rule again.

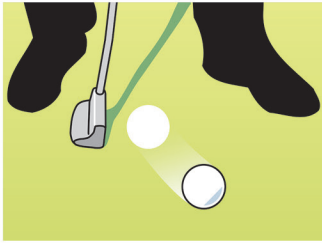
If you use a prohibited device you incur 2 penalty strokes for the first infringement and if the infringement is repeated you are disqualified.



Ball moved when addressing it (Rule 18-2)

Previously, if the ball moved after the player had addressed it, it was assumed that the player had caused the ball to move. He incurred 1 penalty stroke. An exception to this were cases in which it was obvious that the player was not responsible for the ball moving.

Now, it is no longer automatically assumed that the player is at fault and the sole determining factor is who or what caused the ball to move. If it was the player he must put the ball back and he incurs 1 penalty stroke. If, for example, it was the wind or if the ball moved on its own it must be played from its new position and no penalty is incurred.



If, by grounding your club, you cause the ball to move you must put it back with 1 penalty stroke. However, if, after grounding your club, a gust of wind moves your ball you must play it from the new position and no penalty is incurred.



Distance measuring devices (Rule 14-3 and Appendix IV)

Since 2006, distance measuring devices can be permitted by Local Rule. However, they are only allowed to measure the distance and the player is not permitted to use any prohibited functions (e.g. measuring the slope). Previously, it was deemed a breach of the rules if a function such as this was installed on the device, irrespective of whether the player had actually used it.

Now, the sole determining factor is whether the player uses a prohibited function.

Good to know: This puts an end to the controversy surrounding using smartphones as distance measuring devices as they often have other functions, such as a spirit level etc.



Distance measuring devices are only permitted to be used for measuring distances. If a device provides prohibited additional features these functions must not be used.

Not keen on learning all that off-by-heart?

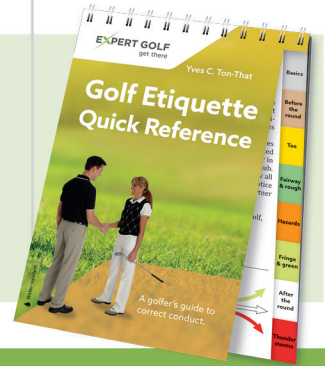
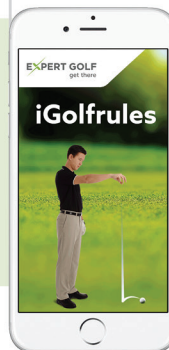
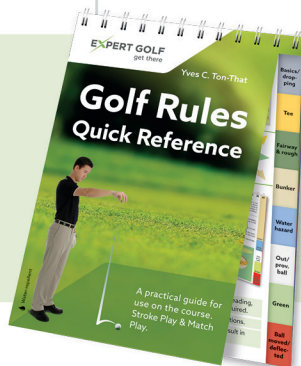
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