



## New modernised Rules of Golf 2023 come into effect as of 1 January 2023

For the first time, the modified Rules for players with disabilities have been fully incorporated into the playing rules without the need to adopt a local rule. The R&A and the USGA are promoting digital and mobile app access to the Rules while the Player's edition in old style small format printed booklet will no longer be produced by the governing bodies. Several penalties have been relaxed and language has been clarified to help golfers at all levels of play.

Key changes include:

- **Modifications for Players with Disabilities:** The modifications to the Rules for players with disabilities have been made part of the Rules and are in effect for all players who fall under the categories covered in Rule 25.
- **Handicap Usage in Stroke Play:** With the continued growth of digital scoring following the adoption of the World Handicap System, players are no longer required to show their handicap on their scorecard in stroke play. The Committee will be responsible for calculating the player's handicap strokes for the competition and using that to calculate the player's net score.
- **Club Damaged During Round:** The Rule has been amended to allow a player to replace a club that is damaged during a round, provided the player did not damage it through abuse.
- **Ball Moved by Natural Forces:** A new Exception provides that a ball at rest must be replaced if it moves to another area of the course or comes to rest out of bounds after being dropped, placed or replaced.
- **Back-on-the-Line Relief Procedure:** The back-on-the-line relief procedure, often used for penalty area and unplayable ball relief, has been simplified so that the player now drops their ball on the line, and the ball must come to rest within one club-length of where it is dropped.



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

R&A USGA

©2023 R&A and USGA. All rights reserved.

Get the Official R&A Rules of Golf App.

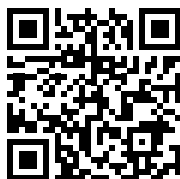
R&A

# The Official Rules of Golf App



To download for FREE,  
scan the QR code or visit:

[randa.org/rules/rules-app](https://randa.org/rules/rules-app)



**More resources for players and committees are available from the Rules pages of R&A Website:**

- Rules of Golf and Official Guide Content - <https://www.randa.org/rog/the-rules-of-golf>
- Player's Rule Finder - <https://www.randa.org/visual-search>  
*Note – this replaces the visual search and the Player's Edition. It will continue to use Player's Edition style summaries of the Rules to provide answers to the most common Rules scenarios. Many more videos have been added to help explain these Rules.*
- Rules Quiz - <https://www.randa.org/quiz>
- Rules Academy - <https://www.randa.org/rules-academy>
- Junior Room - <https://www.randa.org/videos/the-junior-room> (minor updates have been made to existing videos to reflect the 2023 Rules changes)
- Club Presentation – see the Committee Resources section on the following page - <https://www.randa.org/rules/rules-resources>
- Local Rules Creator - <https://www.randa.org/local-rules-creator>

[The 2023 Rules Quick Guide](#) (YouTube video - duration ~ 13 minutes)