

2019 RULES OF GOLF – Four Ball Match Play

GENERAL PENALTY

Match Play: Loss of Hole **Rule 1.3c(2)**

CONCESSION OF MATCH, HOLE OR NEXT STROKE

Match Play: A player may concede **a match** at any time prior to the start or conclusion of that match.
A player may concede **a hole** at any time prior to the start or conclusion of that hole.
A player may concede **her opponent's next stroke** at any time, provided that opponent's ball is at rest.

The opponent is considered to have holed out with her next stroke.

A Concession may not be declined or withdrawn. Rule 3.2b (2)

Stroke Play: *There is no concession or "gimmies" in stroke play. All putts must be holed out. A player who fails to hole out and does not correct her mistake before she makes a stroke on the next teeing ground will be disqualified. (Rule 3.3c)*

SECOND BALL

Match Play: In match play, if a player is doubtful of her rights or the correct procedure, she may not complete the play of the hole with two balls (**Rule 20.1b (4)**). A second ball played in match play is a **WRONG BALL** and results in the loss of hole if a timely claim is made by her opponent. Otherwise the score with the original ball counts. (Reference – Rule 20.1b(4)/1)

Note: A second ball is not a provisional ball. If a ball may be lost outside a penalty area or may be out of bounds, to save time the player should play another ball provisionally. **Rule 18. 3**

WRONG BALL IN A PENALTY AREA

Identifying Ball: Under **Rule 7.3**, a player may lift the ball for identification in a penalty area without penalty. If a player makes a stroke at a wrong ball, she is disqualified from the hole.

STOPPING PLAY (RULE 5.7)

Match Play: (Rule 5.7) For the purpose of **Team Match Play** refer to **Section 6 Guidelines and Conditions of Play** – (C) -page 7. The decision will be made by the **Team Captains only.**

Exception – Danger from lightning – Players must STOP play immediately.

PRACTICE

Match Play: (Rule 5.2a) A player may practice on the competition course before a round on the day of Team Match Play.

Stroke Play: *Rule 5.2b. A player must not practice on competition course before a round. May practice after completing play of her final round for that day..*

INFORMATION AS TO STROKES TAKEN (Rule 3.2d)

Match Play: A player is entitled to ascertain from her opponent, during the play of a hole, the number of strokes she has taken, and after play of the hole, the number of strokes taken on the hole just completed.

Note: A player has given wrong information even if it is due to the failure to include a penalty that she did not know she had incurred. If a player gives incorrect information regarding the number of strokes taken to her opponent, she must correct the mistake before her opponent makes her next stroke during play of a hole, or if any player makes a stroke from the next teeing ground when the hole has been completed. Penalty: Loss of Hole

ORDER OF PLAY (Rule 6.4a) <Play Out of Turn>

Match Play: If a player plays when her opponent should have played, there is no penalty, but **the opponent may immediately require the player to cancel the stroke** so made and, in correct order, play a ball as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was last played. Under Rule 23.6, balls belonging to the same side may be played in the order the side considers best. **(Must play without undue delay)**

Stroke Play: *The ball is played as it lies without penalty.*

TEEING AREA (See Rules of Golf – Definition – Teeing Area)

When starting play of a hole, if a player plays a ball from outside the teeing area:

Match Play: Rule 6.1b (1) There is **no** penalty, but the opponent may **immediately** require the player to cancel the stroke and play a ball from within the teeing area, or accept the stroke so made.

Stroke Play: *There is a two stroke penalty and a ball MUST then be played from within the teeing area Rule 6.1b (2).*

BALL AT REST MOVED BY OPPONENT or HER EQUIPMENT

Match Play: Rule 9.5b If, other than during search for a player's ball, an opponent or her equipment moves the ball, touches it or causes it to move, except as otherwise provided in the Rules, the OPPONENT incurs a penalty of one stroke. If the ball moved, it must be replaced.

Stroke Play: *If a ball at rest is touched or moved by a fellow competitor, there is no penalty. If the ball moved, it must be replaced. (Rule 9.6)*

BALL IN MOTION DEFLECTED or STOPPED

Match Play: If a player's ball in motion is **accidentally** deflected or stopped by any person or outside influence, there is no penalty to any player. **Rule 11.1a.** Play the ball as it lies.

Match Play: When a ball played from the putting green is accidentally stopped or deflected by an opponent or outside agency, the stroke is cancelled and the ball must be replaced and replayed. **(Rule 11.1 Exception 2)**

Ball in motion accidentally hits Flagstick or Person Attending the Flagstick, there is no penalty. Play the ball as it lies **(Rule 13.2b)**

BALL IN MOTION DEFLECTED OR STOPPED BY ANOTHER BALL ON THE PUTTING GREEN: Rule 11.1a

Match Play: If a player's ball in motion after a stroke on the putting green is deflected or stopped by a ball in play and at rest on the putting green, there is **no penalty**.

The player must play her ball as it lies.

Stroke Play *If both balls lay on the putting green prior to the stroke, there is a two-stroke penalty.*

BALL HELPING or INTERFERING WITH PLAY Rule 15.3

Ball Helping Play: Except when a ball is in motion, if a player considers that a ball might assist any other player, she may lift the ball if it is her ball or have any other ball lifted. **Rule 15-3a**

Ball Interfering with Play: Except when a ball is in motion, if a player considers that another ball might interfere with her play, she may have it lifted.

* Except on the putting green, a player may not lift her ball solely because she considers that it might interfere with the play of another player. If a player lifts her ball without being asked to do so, she incurs a penalty of one stroke. **Rule 15.3b (2).**

Note: In Team Play, the side that has the ball further away from the hole may play their ball in the order the side considers best under **Rule 23.6 (The player must play without undue delay)**

CLAIMS (Rule 20.1) Related Rule 3.2d

In **Match play**, if a doubt or dispute arises between the players, a player may make a claim. Any claim must be made before any player in the match plays from the next teeing ground, or in the case of the last hole of the match, before the result of the match is final.

Once the result of the match has been officially announced, a claim may not be considered by the Committee unless it is satisfied that:

- the claim is based on facts which were previously unknown to the player (side) making the claim at the time the result was officially announced, or
- the player (side) making the claim had been given wrong information by an opponent and
- the opponent knew that she was giving wrong information.

There is **no time limit** on considering such a claim under **Rule 20.1b(3)**.

References

Golf Canada Handicap Manual - (March 1, 2018 – December 31, 2019)

R&A USGA Rules of Golf - (Effective January 2019)

R&A USGA Players Edition of the Rules of Golf – (Effective January 2019)

R&A USGA Official Guide to the Rules of Golf - (Effective January 2019)