

Rule Review for May 2019      New rule # 13 is all about the putting green.

+A ball is on the green when any part of the ball touches the green.

+A ball on the green may be marked, lifted and cleaned without penalty.

+Sand and loose soil may be removed without penalty by anyone on the green.

+Any player may repair damage to the green surface, but only by using hand, foot, other body part, or normal golf equipment (R 13.1c).

+Damage on the green that MAY now be repaired includes ball marks, shoe damage, scrapes caused by equipment or flagstick, old hole plugs, seams of cut turf, embedded objects, and animal tracks or hoof indentations.

+Damage on the green that may NOT be repaired includes aeration holes and grooves from vertical mowing, natural wear of the hole. and imperfections such as weeds, areas of bare, diseased or uneven growth.

+A player must decide BEFORE making a stroke if she wants the flagstick left in the hole, tended or removed from the hole. A ball hitting the flagstick, person attending the flagstick, or their equipment does NOT incur a penalty and is played from wherever it comes to rest.

+When a player's ball comes to rest against a flagstick left in the hole it is considered holed if any part of that ball is below the surface of the green. (R13.2c)

+In stroke play, if a ball in motion hits another ball at rest on the putting green and BOTH balls were on the putting green BEFORE the stroke, the player who hit the ball gets the general penalty of 2 strokes and must play the ball from wherever it came to rest. (R11.1a) The other ball is returned to its original location.

+If a ball in motion on the putting green hits any person, animal or movable obstruction (including another ball in motion) the stroke does not count and is replayed from its original position, (other ball is also replaced) except as noted above or if the ball hits a ball marker. Ball is played from wherever it comes to rest.

+There is no penalty if the player or another person accidentally causes the ball or ball marker to move. Ball and/or ball marker are returned to original location to be played.

(R13.d)

+A ball that moves during a stroke is played as it lies. (R9.1b)

+If a ball is moved by natural forces where the ball is next played from is determined by whether the ball had already been marked and lifted and replaced.

++If the ball had NOT been marked, lifted and replaced before movement the ball is played from wherever it came to rest.

++If the ball was already marked, lifted and replaced it must be replaced on its original spot.

As with all rules of golf there are specific exceptions to every rule. Always carry your rule book with you when you play.