

Key Rule Changes For 2023

2023 RULES OF GOLF: 5 KEY CHANGES

The R&A and the USGA have released the most recent edition of the Rules of Golf, effective January 2023.

HERE ARE 5 KEY CHANGES

New Rule — Modifications for Players with Disabilities

These modifications are now part of the Rules and are in effect for all competitions and all players who fall under the categories covered in new Rule 25.



Replacing Damaged Clubs

If your club is damaged during a round (except in cases of abuse) you may replace it, repair it or continue to use it.



Ball Moved by Natural Forces

When your ball is at rest after taking relief and then rolls into another area of the course due to natural causes, there is no penalty, and you must replace it.



Handicap on Scorecard (Stroke Play Only)

You are not required to put your handicap on your scorecard and there is no penalty if you return your scorecard in a competition with an incorrect handicap, as this is now the Committee's responsibility.

This change is consistent with other penalty reductions, such as reducing the penalty for playing an incorrectly substituted ball from the general penalty to one stroke.



Simplified Back-on- the-Line Relief

When using this relief option, you are required to drop your ball on the line, and it may roll up to one club-length in any direction.



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



©2022 R&A Rules Limited and the United States Golf Association. All rights reserved.

Key changes from Infographic and the CMMC

1. Modifications For Players With Disabilities
 - a. Rule 25 will be considered for any members that have a disability. USGA guidance will determine the accommodations for these players.
2. Replacing damaged clubs
 - a. This rule change gives the player an option to replace a club that is broken damaged during a round. The options to also use the club "as is" is still available as an additional option. Clubs broken in anger or abuse cannot be replaced under this rule.
3. Ball moved by natural forces
 - a. When you take relief and your ball is at rest, if natural forces moves the ball to another part of the course the ball must be replaced without penalty. For example, the ball must move from the GENERAL AREA into a PENALTY AREA.
4. Handicap on the scorecard
 - a. The player is no longer held responsible for an incorrect handicap on a stroke play scorecard. Putting the correct handicap on the card is the responsibility of the committee.
5. Simplified Back On The Line relief.
 - a. PENALTY AREAS and UNPLAYABLE BALL have an option of back on the line relief. The line is determined from the flag through the "entry point" (For PENALTY AREA) or "the ball" (for UNPLAYABLE). The reference point may be any place on this line no closer to the hole. The ball MUST be dropped on this line and MUST remain within 1 club length no closer to the hole.

Other Rules Issues

1. In individual stroke play competitions, all players must hole out at each hole. The player is not required to hole out in Stableford competitions, 0 points are given to the player if they do not hole out.
- 2.