

**COMPARISON OF ESSENTIAL NEW/REVISED TEXT
USGA RULES OF GOLF - 2012 WITH 2016
[minor revisions are not included]**

Element	Text in 2012 [highlighted terms are deleted for 2016]	Text in 2016 [underlined terms are new for 2016]
Ball in Play		<p>Added a new second paragraph <u>A ball in play that has been marked but not lifted remains in play. A ball that has been marked, lifted and replaced is back in play whether or not the ball-marker has been removed.</u></p>
Equipment	<p>“<i>Equipment</i>” is anything used, worn or carried by the player or anything carried for the player by his partner or either of their caddies, except any ball he has played at the hole being played and any small object, such as a coin or a tee, when used to mark the position of a ball or the extent of an area in which a ball is to be dropped. <i>Equipment includes a golf cart, whether or not motorized.</i></p> <p>Note 1: A ball played at the hole being played is <i>equipment</i> when it has been lifted and not put back into play.</p> <p>[note 2 in 2012 becomes note 3 in 2016] Note 2: When a golf cart is shared by two or more players, the cart and everything in it are deemed to be the <i>equipment</i> of one of the players sharing the cart.</p>	<p>Replaced and reformatted all text for clarification “<i>Equipment</i>” is anything used, worn, <u>held</u> or carried by the player or <u>the player’s caddie</u>, except:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • any ball <u>that the player has played</u> at the hole being played, and • any small object, such as a coin or a tee, when used to mark the position of <u>the</u> ball or the extent of an area in which a ball is to be dropped. <p>Note 1: A ball played at the hole being played is <i>equipment</i> when it has been lifted and not put back into play.</p> <p>Note 2: <u><i>Equipment</i> includes objects placed on the course for the care of the course, such as rakes, while they are being held or carried.</u></p> <p>Note 3: When <u><i>equipment</i></u> is shared by two or more players, the <u>shared <i>equipment</i> is</u> deemed to be the <i>equipment</i> of <u>only</u> one of the players sharing <u>it</u>.</p>

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	<p>If the cart is being moved by one of the players (or the partner of one of the players) sharing it, the cart and everything in it are deemed to be that player's <i>equipment</i>. Otherwise, the cart and everything in it are deemed to be the <i>equipment</i> of the player sharing the cart whose ball (or whose partner's ball) is involved.</p>	<p>If a <u>shared golf</u> cart is being moved by one of the players sharing it (<u>or his partner or either of their caddies</u>), the cart and everything in it are deemed to be that player's <i>equipment</i>. Otherwise, the cart and everything in it are deemed to be the <i>equipment</i> of the player sharing the cart whose ball (or whose partner's ball) is involved.</p> <p><u>Other shared equipment is deemed to be the equipment of the player who last used, wore, held or carried it. It remains that player's equipment until it is used, worn, held or carried by the other player (or his partner or either of their caddies).</u></p>
Substituted Ball	<p>A "<i>substituted ball</i>" is a ball put into play for the original ball that was either <i>in play</i>, <i>lost</i>, <i>out of bounds</i> or lifted.</p>	<p>Revised for clarification A "<i>substituted ball</i>" is a ball put into play for the original ball that was either <i>in play</i>, <i>lost</i>, <i>out of bounds</i> or lifted, <u>whether or not the substitution was permitted. A substituted ball becomes the ball in play when it has been dropped or placed (see Rule 20-4).</u></p>
Wrong Ball	<p>A "<i>wrong ball</i>" is any ball other than the player's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ball in play</i>; • <i>provisional ball</i>; or • second ball played under Rule 3-3 or Rule 20-7c in stroke play; <p>and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • another player's ball; • an abandoned ball; and • the player's original ball when it is no longer <i>in play</i>. <p>Note: <i>Ball in play</i> includes a ball <i>substituted</i> for the <i>ball in play</i>, whether or not the substitution is permitted.</p>	<p>Revised for clarification A "<i>wrong ball</i>" is any ball other than the player's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ball in play</i>; • <i>provisional ball</i>; or • second ball played under Rule 3-3 or Rule 20-7c in stroke play. <p><i>Ball in play</i> includes a ball <i>substituted</i> for the <i>ball in play</i>, whether or not the substitution is permitted. <u>A substituted ball becomes the ball in play when it has been dropped or placed (see Rule 20-4).</u></p>

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Rule 3-3	<p>a. Procedure In stroke play, if a <i>competitor</i> is doubtful of his rights or the correct procedure during the play of a hole, he may, without penalty, complete the hole with two balls. After the doubtful situation has arisen and before taking further action, the competitor must announce to his <i>marker</i> or <i>fellow-competitor</i> that he intends to play two balls and which ball he wishes to count if the <i>Rules</i> permit. The <i>competitor</i> must report the facts of the situation to the <i>Committee</i> before returning his score card. If he fails to do so, he is disqualified.</p> <p>Note: If the <i>competitor</i> takes further action before dealing with the doubtful situation, Rule 3-3 is not applicable. The score with the original ball counts or, if the original ball is not one of the balls being played, the score with the first ball put into play counts, even if the <i>Rules</i> do not allow the procedure adopted for that ball. However, the competitor incurs no penalty for having played a second ball, and any penalty strokes incurred solely by playing that ball do not count in his score.</p> <p>b. Determination of Score for Hole (i) If the ball that the competitor selected in advance to count has been played in accordance with the Rules, the score with that ball is the competitor's score for the hole. Otherwise, the score with the other ball counts</p>	<p>Replaced and reformatted all text for clarification</p> <p>a. Procedure for Competitor In stroke play <u>only</u>, if a <i>competitor</i> is doubtful of his rights or the correct procedure during the play of a hole, he may, without penalty, complete the hole with two balls. <u>To proceed under this Rule, he must decide to play two balls after the doubtful situation has arisen and before taking further action (e.g. making a stroke at the original ball).</u></p> <p>The <i>competitor</i> <u>should</u> announce to his <i>marker</i> or a <i>fellow-competitor</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that he intends to play two balls; and • which ball he wishes to count if the <i>Rules</i> permit <u>the procedure used for that ball.</u> <p><u>Before returning his score card, the competitor must report the facts of the situation to the Committee.</u> If he fails to do so, he is disqualified.</p> <p>If the <i>competitor</i> <u>has taken</u> further action before <u>deciding to play two balls, he has not proceeded under Rule 3-3 and</u> the score with the original ball counts. The <i>competitor</i> incurs no penalty for <u>playing the second ball.</u></p> <p>b. Committee Determination of Score for Hole <u>When the competitor has proceeded under this Rule, the Committee will determine his score as follows:</u></p>

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	<p>if the <i>Rules</i> allow the procedure adopted for that ball.</p> <p>[part (ii) in 2012 becomes part (i) and note 2 in 2016]</p> <p>(ii) If the <i>competitor</i> fails to announce in advance his decision to complete the hole with two balls, or which ball he wishes to count, the score with the original ball counts, provided it has been played in accordance with the <i>Rules</i>. If the original ball is not one of the balls being played, the first ball put into play counts, provided it has been played in accordance with the <i>Rules</i>. Otherwise, the score with the other ball counts if the <i>Rules</i> allow the procedure adopted for that ball.</p>	<p>(i) <u>If, before taking further action, the <i>competitor</i> has announced which ball he wishes to count and provided the <i>Rules</i> permit the procedure used for the selected ball, the score with that ball counts. If the <i>Rules</i> do not permit the procedure used for the selected ball, the score with the other ball counts provided the <i>Rules</i> permit the procedure used for that ball.</u></p> <p>(ii) <u>If, before taking further action, the <i>competitor</i> has failed to announce which ball he wishes to count, the score with the original ball counts provided the <i>Rules</i> permit the procedure used for that ball. Otherwise, the score with the other ball counts provided the <i>Rules</i> permit the procedure used for that ball.</u></p> <p>(iii) <u>If the <i>Rules</i> do not permit the procedures used for both balls, the score with the original ball counts unless the <i>competitor</i> has committed a serious breach with that ball by playing from a wrong place. If the <i>competitor</i> commits a serious breach in the play of one ball, the score with the other ball counts despite the fact that the <i>Rules</i> do not permit the procedure used for that ball. If the <i>competitor</i> commits a serious breach with both balls, he is disqualified.</u></p> <p>Note 1: <u>“<i>Rules</i> permit the procedure used for a ball” means that, after Rule 3-3 is invoked, either: (a) the</u></p>

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	<p>[Note 1 in 2012 becomes part of Note 3 in 2016] Note 1: If a competitor plays a second ball under Rule 3-3, the strokes made after this Rule has been invoked with the ball ruled not to count and penalty strokes incurred solely by playing that ball are disregarded. [Note 2 in 2012 becomes part of Note 3 in 2016] Note 2: A second ball played under Rule 3-3 is not a provisional ball under Rule 27-2.</p>	<p><u>original ball is played from where it had come to rest and play is permitted from that location, or (b) the Rules permit the procedure adopted for the ball and the ball is put into play in the proper manner and in the correct place as provided in the Rules.</u></p> <p>Note 2: <u>If the score with the original ball is to count, but the original ball is not one of the balls being played, the first ball put into play is deemed to be the original ball.</u></p> <p>Note 3: <u>After this Rule has been invoked, strokes made with the ball ruled not to count, and penalty strokes incurred solely by playing that ball, are disregarded. A second ball played under Rule 3-3 is not a provisional ball under Rule 27-2.</u></p> <p><u>(Ball played from a wrong place – see Rule 20-7c)</u></p>
Rule 6-6d		<p>Added new Exception <u>Exception: If a competitor returns a score for any hole lower than actually taken due to failure to include one or more penalty strokes that, before returning his score card, he did not know he had incurred, he is not disqualified. In such circumstances, the competitor incurs the penalty prescribed by the applicable Rule and an additional penalty of two strokes for each hole at which the competitor has committed a breach of Rule 6-6d. This Exception does not apply when the applicable penalty is disqualification from the competition.</u></p>

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Rule 8-2	<p>a. Other Than on Putting Green Except on the <i>putting green</i>, a player may have the <i>line of play</i> indicated to him by anyone, but no one may be positioned by the player on or close to the line or an extension of the line beyond the <i>hole</i> while the <i>stroke</i> is being made. Any mark placed by the player or with his knowledge to indicate the line must be removed before the <i>stroke</i> is made.</p> <p>Exception: <i>Flagstick</i> attended or held up – see Rule 17-1.</p> <p>b. On the Putting Green When the player's ball is on the <i>putting green</i>, the player, his <i>partner</i> or either of their <i>caddies</i> may, before but not during the stroke, point out a line for putting, but in so doing the <i>putting green</i> must not be touched. A mark must not be placed anywhere to indicate a line for putting.</p>	<p>Revised for clarification</p> <p>a. Other Than on Putting Green Except on the <i>putting green</i>, a player may have the <i>line of play</i> indicated to him by anyone, but no one may be positioned by the player <u>for that purpose</u> on or close to the line or an extension of the line beyond the <i>hole</i> while the <i>stroke</i> is being made. Any mark placed by the player or with his knowledge, <u>for the purpose of indicating the <i>line of play</i></u>, must be removed before the <i>stroke</i> is made.</p> <p>b. On the Putting Green When the player's ball is on the <i>putting green</i>, the <u><i>line of putt</i> may be indicated before, but not during the stroke, by the player, his <i>partner</i> or either of their <i>caddies</i></u>; in doing <u>so</u> the <i>putting green</i> must not be touched. A mark must not be placed anywhere <u>for the purpose of indicating a <i>line of putt</i></u>.</p> <p><u>(Touching line of putt – see Rule 16-1a)</u></p>
Rule 12-1	<p>a. Searching for or Identifying Ball Covered by Sand If the ball is <i>moved</i> during the touching or moving of sand while searching for or identifying the ball, there is no penalty; the ball must be replaced and the lie re-created.</p>	<p>Added an exception to penalty for ball moved</p> <p>a. Searching for or Identifying Ball Covered by Sand If the ball is <i>moved</i> during the touching or moving of sand while searching for or identifying the ball <u>or during the re-creation of the lie</u>, there is no penalty; the ball must be replaced and the lie re-created.</p>

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Rule 14-1	<p>14-1. Ball to be Fairly Struck At</p>	<p>Re-titled and renumbered Rule 14-1 and Added Rule 14-1b 14-1a. Fairly Striking the Ball 14-1b. Anchoring the Club <u>In making a <i>stroke</i>, the player must not anchor the club, either “directly” or by use of an “anchor point.”</u></p> <p>Note 1: <u>The club is anchored “directly” when the player intentionally holds the club or a gripping hand in contact with any part of his body, except that the player may hold the club or a gripping hand against a hand or forearm.</u></p> <p>Note 2: <u>An “anchor point” exists when the player intentionally holds a forearm in contact with any part of his body to establish a gripping hand as a stable point around which the other hand may swing the club.</u></p>
Rule 14-3	<p>14-3. Artificial Devices, Unusual Equipment and Unusual Use of Equipment The USGA reserves the right, at any time, to change the <i>Rules</i> relating to artificial devices, unusual <i>equipment</i> and the unusual use of <i>equipment</i>, and to make or change the interpretations relating to these <i>Rules</i>.</p> <p>A player in doubt as to whether use of an item would constitute a breach of Rule 14-3 should consult the USGA.</p> <p>A manufacturer should submit to the USGA a sample of an item to be manufactured for a ruling as to</p>	<p>Revised for clarification and penalty statement revised 14-3. Artificial Devices, and Unusual Equipment; Abnormal Use of Equipment <u>Rule 14-3 governs the use of <i>equipment</i> and devices (including electronic devices) that might assist a player in making a specific <i>stroke</i> or generally in his play.</u></p> <p><u>Golf is a challenging game in which success should depend on the judgment, skills and abilities of the player. This principle guides the USGA and The R&A in determining whether the use of any item is in breach of Rule 14-3.</u></p>

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	<p>whether its use during a <i>stipulated round</i> would cause a player to be in breach of Rule 14-3. The sample becomes the property of the USGA for reference purposes. If a manufacturer fails to submit a sample or, having submitted a sample, fails to await a ruling before manufacturing and/or marketing the item, the manufacturer assumes the risk of a ruling that use of the item would be contrary to the <i>Rules</i>.</p> <p>Except as provided in the <i>Rules</i>, during a <i>stipulated round</i> the player must not use any artificial device or unusual <i>equipment</i> (see Appendix IV for detailed specifications and interpretations), or use any <i>equipment</i> in an unusual manner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. That might assist him in making a <i>stroke</i> or in his play; or b. For the purpose of gauging or measuring distance or conditions that might affect his play; or c. That might assist him in gripping the club, except that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) gloves may be worn provided that they are plain gloves; (ii) resin, powder and drying or moisturizing agents may be used; and (iii) a towel or handkerchief may be wrapped around the grip. <p>Exceptions:</p> <p>1. A player is not in breach of this Rule if (a) the <i>equipment</i> or device is designed for or has the effect of alleviating a medical condition, (b) the player has a legitimate medical reason to use the <i>equipment</i> or device, and (c) the <i>Committee</i> is satisfied that its use</p>	<p><u>For detailed specifications and interpretations on the conformity of equipment and devices under Rule 14-3 and the process for consultation and submission regarding equipment and devices, see Appendix IV.</u></p> <p>Except as provided in the <i>Rules</i>, during a <i>stipulated round</i> the player must not use any artificial device or unusual <i>equipment</i> or use any <i>equipment</i> in an <u>abnormal</u> manner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. That might assist him in making a <i>stroke</i> or in his play; or b. For the purpose of gauging or measuring distance or conditions that might affect his play; or c. That might assist him in gripping the club, except that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) gloves may be worn provided that they are plain gloves; (ii) resin, powder and drying or moisturizing agents may be used; and (iii) a towel or handkerchief may be wrapped around the grip. <p>Exceptions:</p> <p>1. A player is not in breach of this Rule if (a) the <i>equipment</i> or device is designed for or has the effect of alleviating a medical condition, (b) the player has a legitimate medical reason to use the <i>equipment</i> or device, and (c) the <i>Committee</i> is satisfied that its use</p>

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	<p>does not give the player any undue advantage over other players.</p> <p>2. A player is not in breach of this Rule if he uses <i>equipment</i> in a traditionally accepted manner.</p> <p>PENALTY FOR BREACH OF RULE 14-3: Disqualification.</p> <p>Note: The <i>Committee</i> may make a Local Rule allowing players to use devices that measure or gauge distance only.</p>	<p>does not give the player any undue advantage over other players.</p> <p>2. A player is not in breach of this Rule if he uses <i>equipment</i> in a traditionally accepted manner.</p> <p>PENALTY FOR BREACH OF RULE 14-3: <u>Match play – Loss of hole; Stroke play – Two strokes.</u></p> <p><u>For subsequent offense – Disqualification.</u></p> <p>Note: The <i>Committee</i> may make a Local Rule allowing players to use <u>a distance-measuring device</u>.</p>
Rule 14-5	<p>When the ball begins to <i>move</i> only after the player has begun the <i>stroke</i> or the backward movement of his club for the <i>stroke</i>, he incurs no penalty under this Rule for playing a moving ball, but he is not exempt from any penalty under the following Rules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ball at rest <i>moved</i> by player – Rule 18-2a • Ball at rest moving after address – Rule 18-2b 	<p>Revised to reflect deletion of Rule 18-2b</p> <p>When the ball begins to move only after the player has begun the <i>stroke</i> or the backward movement of his club for the <i>stroke</i>, he incurs no penalty under this Rule for playing a moving ball, but he is not exempt from any penalty under <u>Rule 18-2 (Ball at rest moved by player)</u>.</p>
Rule 15-2	<p>If a player <i>substitutes</i> a ball when not permitted to do so under the <i>Rules</i>, that <i>substituted ball</i> is not a <i>wrong ball</i>; it becomes the <i>ball in play</i>. If the mistake is not corrected as provided in Rule 20-6 and the player makes a <i>stroke</i> at a wrongly <i>substituted ball</i>, he loses the hole in match play or incurs a penalty of two strokes in stroke play under the applicable <i>Rule</i> and, in stroke play, must play out the hole with the <i>substituted ball</i>.</p>	<p>Revised second paragraph for clarification</p> <p>If a player <i>substitutes</i> a ball when not permitted to do so under the <i>Rules</i> (<u>including an unintentional <i>substitution</i> when a <i>wrong ball</i> is dropped or placed by the player</u>), that <i>substituted ball</i> is not a <i>wrong ball</i>; it becomes the <i>ball in play</i>. If the mistake is not corrected as provided in Rule 20-6 and the player makes a <i>stroke</i> at <u>an incorrectly <i>substituted</i> ball</u>, he loses the hole in match play or incurs a penalty of two strokes in stroke play under the applicable <i>Rule</i> and, in stroke play, must play out the hole with the <i>substituted ball</i>.</p>

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Rule 16-1a	(Indicating line for putting on putting green – see Rule 8-2b)	Revised cross reference (Indicating <u>line of putt</u> on putting green – see Rule 8-2b)
Rule 18-2	<p>b. Ball Moving After Address If a player's <i>ball in play</i> moves after he has <i>addressed</i> it (other than as a result of a <i>stroke</i>), the player is deemed to have <i>moved</i> the ball and incurs a penalty of one stroke.</p> <p>The ball must be replaced, unless the movement of the ball occurs after the player has begun the <i>stroke</i> or the backward movement of the club for the <i>stroke</i> and the <i>stroke</i> is made.</p> <p>Exception: If it is known or virtually certain that the player did not cause his ball to <i>move</i>, Rule 18-2b does not apply.</p>	Rule 18-2b withdrawn in entirety [Rule 18-2a becomes Rule 18-2]
Rule 18-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In searching for a ball covered by sand, in the replacement of <i>loose impediments</i> moved in a <i>hazard</i> while finding or identifying a ball, in probing for a ball lying in water in a <i>water hazard</i> or in searching for a ball in an <i>obstruction</i> or an <i>abnormal ground condition</i> – Rule 12-1 	<p>Revised first bullet point in list of exceptions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In searching for a ball covered by sand <u>or in re-creating the lie of a ball that has been altered during such a process</u>, in the replacement of <i>loose impediments</i> moved in a <i>hazard</i> while finding or identifying a ball, in probing for a ball lying in water in a <i>water hazard</i> or in searching for a ball in an <i>obstruction</i> or an <i>abnormal ground condition</i> – Rule 12-1.

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Rule 20-4	<p>If the player's <i>ball in play</i> has been lifted, it is again in play when dropped or placed.</p> <p><i>A substituted ball</i> becomes the <i>ball in play</i> when it has been dropped or placed.</p>	<p>Revised for clarification</p> <p>If the player's <i>ball in play</i> has been lifted, it is again <i>in play</i> when dropped or placed. <u>A ball that has been replaced is <i>in play</i> whether or not the ball-marker has been removed.</u></p> <p><i>A substituted ball</i> becomes the <i>ball in play</i> when it has been dropped or placed.</p>
Rule 23-1	<p>On the <i>putting green</i>, if the ball or ball-marker is accidentally <i>moved</i> in the process of the player removing a <i>loose impediment</i>, the ball or ball-marker must be replaced. There is no penalty, provided the movement of the ball or ball-marker is directly attributable to the removal of the <i>loose impediment</i>. Otherwise, if the player causes the ball to move, he incurs a penalty of one stroke under Rule 18-2a.</p>	<p>Revised for clarification – third paragraph only</p> <p>On the <i>putting green</i>, if the ball or ball-marker is accidentally <i>moved</i> in the process of the player removing a <i>loose impediment</i>, the ball or ball-marker must be replaced. There is no penalty, provided the movement of the ball or ball-marker is directly attributable to the removal of the <i>loose impediment</i>. Otherwise, the player incurs a penalty of one stroke under Rule 18-2.</p>
Rule 25-2	<p>A ball embedded in its own pitch-mark in the ground in any closely mown area <i>through the green</i> may be lifted, cleaned and dropped, without penalty, as near as possible to the spot where it lay but not nearer the <i>hole</i>. The ball when dropped must first strike a part of the <i>course through the green</i>. “Closely mown area” means any area of the <i>course</i>, including paths through the rough, cut to fairway height or less.</p>	<p>Expanded to clarify the meaning of “embedded”</p> <p><u>If a player's ball is embedded in any closely-mown area <i>through the green</i>, it may be lifted, cleaned and dropped, without penalty, as near as possible to the spot where it lay but not nearer the <i>hole</i>. The ball when dropped must first strike a part of the <i>course through the green</i>.</u></p> <p>Note 1: <u>A ball is “embedded” when it is in its own pitch-mark and part of the ball is below the level of the ground. A ball does not necessarily have to touch the soil to be embedded (e.g. grass, <i>loose impediments</i> and the like may intervene between the ball and the soil).</u></p> <p>Note 2: “Closely-mown area” means any area of the <i>course</i>, including paths through the rough, cut to fairway height or less.</p>

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		<p>Note 3: <u>The Committee may adopt the Local Rule as provided for in Appendix I allowing a player relief, without penalty, for a ball embedded anywhere through the green.</u></p>
<p>Rule 26-2</p>	<p>a. Ball Comes to Rest in Same or Another Water Hazard If a ball played from within a <i>water hazard</i> comes to rest in the same or another <i>water hazard</i> after the <i>stroke</i>, the player may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) proceed under Rule 26-1a. If, after dropping in the <i>hazard</i>, the player elects not to play the dropped ball, he may: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) proceed under Rule 26-1b, or if applicable Rule 26-1c, adding the additional penalty of one stroke prescribed by the Rule and using as the reference point the point where the original ball last crossed the margin of this <i>hazard</i> before it came to rest in this <i>hazard</i>; or (b) add an additional penalty of one stroke and play a ball as nearly as possible at the spot from which the last <i>stroke</i> from outside a <i>water hazard</i> was made (see Rule 20-5); or (ii) proceed under Rule 26-1b, or if applicable Rule 26-1c; or (iii) under penalty of one stroke, play a ball as nearly as possible at the spot from which the last <i>stroke</i> from outside a <i>water hazard</i> was made (see Rule 20-5). 	<p>Reorganized and reordered for clarification</p> <p>a. Ball Comes to Rest in Same or Another Water Hazard If a ball played from within a <i>water hazard</i> comes to rest in the same or another <i>water hazard</i> after the <i>stroke</i>, the player may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) <u>under penalty of one stroke</u>, play a ball as nearly as possible at the spot from which the last <i>stroke</i> from outside a <i>water hazard</i> was made (see Rule 20-5); or (ii) proceed under Rule 26-1a, 26-1b or, if applicable, 26-1c, <u>incurring the penalty of one stroke under that Rule. For purposes of applying Rule 26-1b or 26-1c, the reference point is the point where the original ball last crossed the margin of the <i>hazard</i> in which it lies.</u> <p>Note: <u>If the player proceeds under Rule 26-1a by dropping a ball in the <i>hazard</i> as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was last played,</u></p>

Element	Text in 2012 [highlighted terms are deleted for 2016]	Text in 2016 [underlined terms are new for 2016]
	<p>b. Ball Lost or Unplayable Outside Hazard or Out of Bounds If a ball played from within a <i>water hazard</i> is <i>lost</i> or deemed unplayable outside the <i>hazard</i> or is <i>out of bounds</i>, the player may, after taking a penalty of one stroke under Rule 27-1 or 28a:</p> <p>(i) play a ball as nearly as possible at the spot in the <i>hazard</i> from which the original ball was last played (see Rule 20-5); or</p> <p>(ii) proceed under Rule 26-1b, or if applicable Rule 26-1c, adding the additional penalty of one stroke prescribed by the Rule and using as the reference point the point where the original ball last crossed the margin of the <i>hazard</i> before it came to rest in the <i>hazard</i>; or</p> <p>(iii) add an additional penalty of one stroke and play a ball as nearly as possible at the spot from which</p>	<p>but elects not to play the dropped ball, he may then proceed under Clause (i) above, Rule 26-1b or, if applicable, Rule 26-1c. If he does so, he incurs a total of two penalty strokes: the penalty of one stroke for proceeding under Rule 26-1a, and an additional penalty of one stroke for then proceeding under Clause (i) above, Rule 26-1b or Rule 26-1c.</p> <p>b. Ball Lost or Unplayable Outside Hazard or Out of Bounds If a ball played from within a <i>water hazard</i> is <i>lost</i> or deemed unplayable outside the <i>hazard</i> or is <i>out of bounds</i>, the player may, after taking a penalty of one stroke under Rule 27-1 or 28a, play a ball as nearly as possible at the spot in the <i>hazard</i> from which the original ball was last played (see Rule 20-5).</p> <p>If the player elects not to play a ball from that spot, he may:</p> <p>(i) <u>add an additional penalty of one stroke (making a total of two penalty strokes) and play a ball as nearly as possible at the spot from which the last stroke from outside a <i>water hazard</i> was made (see Rule 20-5); or</u></p> <p>(ii) proceed under Rule 26-1b or, if applicable, Rule 26-1c, adding the additional penalty of one stroke prescribed by the Rule (<u>making a total of two penalty strokes</u>) and using as the reference point the point where the original ball last crossed the margin of the <i>hazard</i> before it came to rest in the <i>hazard</i>.</p>

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	<p>the last <i>stroke</i> from outside a <i>water hazard</i> was made (see Rule 20-5).</p> <p>Note 1: When proceeding under Rule 26-2b, the player is not required to drop a ball under Rule 27-1 or 28a. If he does drop a ball, he is not required to play it. He may alternatively proceed under Rule 26-2b(ii) or (iii).</p> <p>Note 2: If a ball played from within a <i>water hazard</i> is deemed unplayable outside the <i>hazard</i>, nothing in Rule 26-2b precludes the player from proceeding under Rule 28b or c.</p>	<p>Note 1: When proceeding under Rule 26-2b, the player is not required to drop a ball under Rule 27-1 or 28a. If he does drop a ball, he is not required to play it. He may alternatively proceed under <u>Clause (i) or (ii) above</u>. If he does so, he incurs a total of two <u>penalty strokes: the penalty of one stroke under Rule 27-1 or 28a, and an additional penalty of one stroke for then proceeding under Clause (i) or (ii) above</u>.</p> <p>Note 2: If a ball played from within a <i>water hazard</i> is deemed unplayable outside the <i>hazard</i>, nothing in Rule 26-2b precludes the player from proceeding under Rule 28b or c.</p>
Rule 27-2	<p>a. Procedure If a ball may be <i>lost</i> outside a <i>water hazard</i> or may be <i>out of bounds</i>, to save time the player may play another ball provisionally in accordance with Rule 27-1. The player must inform his <i>opponent</i> in match play or his <i>marker</i> or a <i>fellow-competitor</i> in stroke play that he intends to play a <i>provisional ball</i>, and he must play it before he or his partner goes forward to search for the original ball.</p> <p>If he fails to do so and plays another ball, that ball is not a <i>provisional ball</i> and becomes the <i>ball in play</i> under penalty of stroke and distance (Rule 27-1); the original ball is <i>lost</i>.</p>	<p>Reorganized for clarification a. Procedure If a ball may be <i>lost</i> outside a <i>water hazard</i> or may be <i>out of bounds</i>, to save time the player may play another ball provisionally in accordance with Rule 27-1. The player must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) <u>announce to his opponent</u> in match play or his <i>marker</i> or a <i>fellow-competitor</i> in stroke play that he intends to play a <i>provisional ball</i>; <u>and</u> (ii) <u>play the provisional ball before he or his partner goes forward to search for the original ball.</u> <p>If <u>a player fails to meet the above requirements prior to playing</u> another ball, that ball is not a <i>provisional ball</i> and becomes the <i>ball in play</i> under penalty of stroke and distance (Rule 27-1); the original ball is <i>lost</i>.</p>

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Rule 32-1a	--	<p>Added Note 3 reflecting change to Rule 6-6d <u>Note 3: If the competitor incurs the additional two-stroke penalty provided in the Exception to Rule 6-6d, that additional penalty is applied by deducting one hole from the aggregate of holes scored for the round. The penalty the competitor failed to include in his score is applied to the hole where the breach occurred. However, neither penalty applies when a breach of Rule 6-6d does not affect the result of the hole.</u></p>
Rule 32-1b	--	<p>Inserted new Note 3 reflecting change to Rule 6-6d (existing Note 3 becomes Note 4) <u>Note 3: If the competitor incurs the additional two-stroke penalty provided in the Exception to Rule 6-6d, that additional penalty is applied by deducting two points from the total points scored for the round. The penalty the competitor failed to include in his score is applied to the hole where the breach occurred. However, neither penalty applies when a breach of Rule 6-6d does not affect the points scored on the hole.</u></p>
Rule 32-2a	--	<p>Included a reference to Rule 10-2c in the list of disqualification penalties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Rule 10-2c</u> <u>Playing Out of Turn</u> </p>
Rule 33-1	--	<p>Inserted a new third paragraph <u>The number of holes of a stipulated round must not be reduced once play has commenced for that round.</u></p>
Rule 34-1b	(iii) returned a score for any hole lower than actually taken (Rule 6-6d) for any reason other than failure to include a penalty that, before the competition closed, he did not know he had incurred; or	<p>Revised for clarification part (iii) Exceptions to Rule 34-1b (iii) returned a score for any hole lower than actually taken (Rule 6-6d) for any reason other than failure to include <u>one or more penalty strokes</u> that, before the competition closed, he did not know he had incurred; or</p>

Element	Text in 2012 [highlighted terms are deleted for 2016]	Text in 2016 [underlined terms are new for 2016]
Appendix I Part A	<p>[Only 2012 text of Local Rules for cleaning ball, and distance-measuring devices are included below for comparison with 2016 text)</p> <p>--</p> <p>b. Cleaning Ball (Specify area) a ball may be lifted, cleaned and replaced without penalty.</p> <p>9. Distance-Measuring Devices If the <i>Committee</i> wishes to act in accordance with the Note under Rule 14-3, the following wording is recommended:</p> <p>“(Specify as appropriate, e.g., In this competition, or For all play at this course, etc.), a player may obtain distance information by using a device that measures distance only. If, during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance-measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his play (e.g., gradient, wind speed, temperature, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 14-3, for which the penalty is disqualification, regardless of whether any such additional function is actually used.”</p>	<p>Part A Text of Local Rules and Part B Specimen Local Rules have been amalgamated into a single Part A containing and integrating most of the material from the previous two parts.</p> <p>Added New Note for Embedded Ball Note: A ball is “<u>embedded</u>” when it is in its own pitch-mark and part of the ball is below the level of the ground. A ball does not necessarily have to touch the soil to be embedded (e.g. <u>grass, loose impediments and the like may intervene between the ball and the soil</u>).</p> <p>c. Cleaning Ball (Specify area, e.g. <u>at the 6th hole, on a closely-mown area, anywhere through the green, etc.</u>) a ball may be lifted <u>and cleaned</u> without penalty. <u>The ball must be replaced.</u></p> <p>7. Distance-Measuring Devices If the <i>Committee</i> wishes to act in accordance with the Note under Rule 14-3, the following <u>Local Rule</u> is recommended:</p> <p>(Specify as appropriate, e.g., In this competition, or For all play at this <i>course</i>, etc.), a player may obtain distance information by <u>use of a distance-measuring device</u>. If, during a <i>stipulated round</i>, a player uses a distance-measuring device to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his play (e.g., <u>elevation changes</u>, wind speed, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 14-3.”</p>

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		<p>Because of amalgamation of Part A Local Rules and Part B Specimen Local Rules into a single Part A, the former Part C has become Part B with a significant change to the provisions for distance-measuring devices.</p> <p>The introduction to new Part B reads as follows:</p> <p><u>Part B Conditions of Competition</u></p> <p><u>Definitions</u> <u>All defined terms are in <i>italics</i> and are listed alphabetically in the Definitions section – see pages 30-45.</u></p> <p><u>General</u> <u>Rule 33-1 provides, “The <i>Committee</i> must establish the conditions under which a competition is to be played.” The conditions should include many matters such as method of entry, eligibility, number of rounds to be played, etc. which it is not appropriate to deal with in the Rules of Golf or this Appendix. Detailed information regarding these conditions is provided in “Decisions on the Rules of Golf” under Rule 33-1 and in [“How to Conduct a Competition/Guidance on Running a Competition.”]</u></p> <p><u>However, there are a number of matters that might be covered in the Conditions of the Competition to which the <i>Committee’s</i> attention is specifically drawn. These are:</u></p>

Element	Text in 2012 [highlighted terms are deleted for 2016]	Text in 2016 [underlined terms are new for 2016]
Appendix I Part B	<p>5. Distance-Measuring Devices (Rule 14-3) During a <i>stipulated round</i>, the use of any distance measuring device is not permitted unless the Committee has introduced a Local Rule to that effect (see Note to Rule 14-3 and Appendix I; Part B; Section 9).</p> <p>Even when the Local Rule is in effect, the device must be limited to measuring distance only. Features that would render use of the device contrary to the Local Rule include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the gauging or measuring of slope; • the gauging or measuring of other conditions that might affect play (e.g., wind speed or direction, or other climate-based information such as temperature, humidity, etc.); • recommendations that might assist the player in making a <i>stroke</i> or in his play (e.g., club selection, type of shot to be played, green reading or any other advice related matter); or • calculating the effective distance between two points based on slope or other conditions affecting shot distance. <p>Such non-conforming features render use of the device contrary to the <i>Rules</i>, irrespective of whether or not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the features can be switched off or disengaged; and • the features are switched off or disengaged. 	<p>Revised with significant changes in text 5. Distance-Measuring Devices (Rule 14-3) During a <i>stipulated round</i>, the use of any distance-measuring device is not permitted unless the <i>Committee</i> has introduced a Local Rule to that effect (see Note to Rule 14-3 and Appendix I; Part <u>A</u>; Section <u>7</u>).</p> <p>Even when the Local Rule is in effect, the device must <u>not be used for any purposes that are prohibited by Rule 14-3, including but not limited to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the gauging or measuring of slope; • the gauging or measuring of other conditions that might affect play (e.g. wind speed or direction); • recommendations that might assist the player in making a <i>stroke</i> or in his play (e.g. club selection, type of shot to be played, green reading or any other advice related matter); or • calculating the effective distance between two points based on <u>elevation changes</u> or other conditions affecting shot distance.

Element	Text in 2012 [highlighted terms are deleted for 2016]	Text in 2016 [underlined terms are new for 2016]
Appendix IV	A multi-functional device, such as a smartphone or PDA, may be used as a distance measuring device provided it contains a distance measuring application that meets all of the above limitations (i.e., it must measure distance only). In addition, when the distance measuring application is being used, there must be no other features or applications installed on the device that, if used, would be in breach of the <i>Rules</i> , whether or not they are actually used.	A multi-functional device, such as a smartphone or PDA, may be used as a distance-measuring device, <u>but it must not be used to gauge or measure other conditions where doing so would be a breach of Rule 14-3.</u>