

## Rule Changes

As most will be aware, there are some temporary rules of golf that are currently under consideration and below are the ones that this Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> July 2017, the RMGC are going to adopt. In a nutshell, most of the rules are about speeding up play.

Should you have a comment on how the changes work, please send an e-mail to Richard Waterhouse – [rw1664@gmail.com](mailto:rw1664@gmail.com), all feedback will be collated and forwarded to the relevant parties. Thank you.

### **Pace of Play**

- Please play “ready golf”.

### **Putting Green**

- *Leaving the flagstick in the hole.* No penalty if your ball hits the unattended flagstick in the hole, including when you play your ball from the putting green. If your ball deflects off the flagstick and is not holed, you must play it as it lies.
- *Repairing damage.* You may repair all damage on the putting green (including spike marks and other shoe damage) other than natural imperfections or aeration holes.
- *Touching your line of putt.* No penalty for merely touching your line of putt, but you must not improve your line of putt beyond the allowed repair.
- *Your ball or ball-marker moves.* No penalty if you (or your opponent in match play) accidentally move your ball or ball-marker on the putting green. You must replace your ball or ball-marker on the original spot (which, if you don't know it, you must estimate).
- *Your ball moves for any reason after you had lifted and replaced it.* If your ball on the putting green is moved by anyone or anything (including by the wind) after you already had lifted and replaced it, you must replace your ball on its original spot.

### **Bunkers**

- *Moving loose impediments.* When your ball is in a bunker, you may move loose impediments in the bunker.
  - *Touching the sand.* When your ball is in a bunker, no penalty for touching the sand in the bunker with your hand, club or other object, except:
    - You must not deliberately touch the sand with your hand or a club, rake or other object to test the bunker's condition, and
    - You must not touch the sand with your club right behind or in front of your ball, in making your backswing for your stroke or in making a practice swing.
- *Ball Unplayable in Bunker.* When your ball is in a bunker, as an extra relief option, for a total of two penalty strokes you may play a ball from outside the bunker using the back-on-a-line relief procedure.

### **Water Hazards (to be known as Penalty Areas)**

- *Moving loose impediments and touching the ground.* When your ball is in a water hazard, you may move loose impediments and touch the water or the ground in the water hazard with your hand or club (such as in grounding your club or taking practice swings).

### **Searching for Ball**

- *Time for search.* Your ball is lost if you don't find or identify it in three minutes after you or your caddie begin looking for it.
- *Accidentally moving your ball.* No penalty if you or your caddie accidentally moves your ball during search. You must estimate the ball's original spot and replace it on that spot.