

**COMPARISON OF ESSENTIAL NEW/REVISED TEXT
USGA RULES OF GOLF 2008-2012
[minor revisions not included]**

Rule No.	Text in 2008	Text in 2012
Addressing the Ball	A player has "addressed the ball" when he has taken his stance and has also grounded his club, except that in a hazard a player has addressed the ball when he has taken his stance.	Revised [deleted requirement for taking stance] A player has "addressed the ball" when he has grounded his club immediately in front of or immediately behind the ball, whether or not he has taken his stance.
Lost Ball	c. The player has put another ball into play under penalty of stroke and distance (see Rule 27-1a); or	Revised [new meaning in part c.] c. The player has put another ball into play under penalty of stroke and distance under Rule 26-1a, 27-1 or 28a; or
Opponent	--	New Definition An "opponent" is a member of a side against whom the player's side is competing in match play.
Out of Bounds Note 2	A Committee may make a local Rule declaring stakes identifying but not defining out of bounds to be movable obstructions.	Revised [amended from "movable obstructions" to "obstructions"] A Committee may make a local Rule declaring stakes identifying but not defining out of bounds to be obstructions.
Referee	A "referee" is one who is appointed by the Committee to accompany players to decide questions of fact and apply the Rules. He must act on any breach of a Rule that he observes or is reported to him.	Revised [amended] A "referee" is one who is appointed by the Committee to decide questions of fact and apply the Rules. He must act on any breach of a Rule that he observes or is reported to him.
Referee Exception	--	New Exception Exception in match play: Unless a referee is assigned to accompany the players throughout a match, he has no authority to intervene in a match other than in relation to Rule 1-3, 6-7 or 33-7.

Rule No.	Text in 2008	Text in 2012
Rule or Rules	d. The specifications on clubs and the ball in Appendices II and III and their interpretations as contained in "A Guide to the Rules on Clubs and Balls."	Added part ii d. The specifications on: (i) clubs and the ball in Appendices II and III and their interpretations as contained in "A Guide to the Rules on Clubs and Balls;" <u>and</u> (ii) <u>devices and other equipment in Appendix IV.</u>
Side		Added match and stroke play terms In match play, each member of the opposing side is an opponent. In stroke play, members of all sides are competitors and members of different sides playing together are fellow-competitors.
Tee	A "tee" is a device designed to raise the ball off the ground. It must not be longer than 4 inches (101.6 mm), and it must not be designed or manufactured in such a way that it could indicate the line of play or influence the movement of the ball.	Deleted [moved to Appendix IV] A tee is a device designed to raise the ball off the ground. A tee must not: • be longer than 4 inches (101.6 mm); • be designed or manufactured in such a way that it could indicate line of play; • <u>unduly influence the movement of the ball; or</u> • <u>otherwise assist the player in making a stroke or in his play.</u>
Rule 1-2	1-2. Exerting Influence on Ball A player or caddie must not take any action to influence the position or the movement of a ball except in accordance with the Rules.	Revised [clarification] 1-2. Exerting Influence on <u>Movement of Ball or Altering Physical Conditions</u> A player must not (i) take an action <u>with the intent to influence the movement of a ball in play or</u> (ii) <u>alter physical conditions with the intent of affecting the playing of a hole.</u>
Rule 1-2 Exception 1, 2	--	Added Exceptions Exceptions: 1. An action expressly permitted or expressly prohibited by another Rule is subject to that other Rule, not Rule 1-2. 2. An action taken for the sole purpose of caring for the course is not a breach of Rule 1-2.

Rule No.	Text in 2008	Text in 2012
Rule 1-2 Note	<p>Note: A player is deemed to have committed a serious breach of Rule 1-2 if the Committee considers that his act of influencing the position or movement of the ball has allowed him or another player to gain a significant advantage or has placed another player, other than his partner, at a significant disadvantage.</p>	<p>Revised Note [becomes Note 1] Note 1: A player is deemed to have committed a serious breach of Rule 1-2 if the Committee considers that <u>the action taken in breach of this Rule</u> has allowed him or another player to gain a significant advantage or has placed another player, other than his partner, at a significant disadvantage.</p>
Rule 1-2 Note 2	<p>--</p>	<p>Added Note 2 Note 2: In stroke play, except where a serious breach resulting in disqualification is involved, a player in breach of Rule 1-2 in relation to the movement of his own ball must play the ball from where it was stopped, or, if the ball was deflected, from where it came to rest. If the movement of a player's ball has been intentionally influenced by a fellow-competitor or other outside agency, Rule 1-4 applies to the player (see Note to Rule 19-1).</p>
Rule 2-5	<p>2-5. Doubt as to Procedure; Disputes and Claims</p> <p>In match play, if a doubt or dispute arises between the players, a player may make a claim. If no duly authorized representative of the Committee is available within a reasonable time, the players must continue the match without delay. The Committee may consider a claim only if the player making the claim notifies his opponent (i) that he is making a claim, (ii) of the facts of the situation and (iii) that he wants a ruling. The 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 all players in the match leave the putting green.</p>	<p>Revised [clarification] 2-5. Doubt as to Procedure; Disputes and Claims</p> <p>In match play, if a doubt or dispute arises between the players, a player may make a claim. If no duly authorized representative of the Committee is available within a reasonable time, the players must continue the match without delay. The Committee may consider a claim only <u>if it has been made in a timely manner and</u> if the player making the claim has notified his opponent <u>at the time</u> (i) that he is making a claim <u>or</u> wants a ruling and (ii) of the facts <u>upon which the claim or ruling is to be based.</u></p> <p><u>A claim is considered to have been made in a timely manner if, upon discovery of circumstances giving</u></p>

Rule No.	Text in 2008	Text in 2012
	<p>A later claim may <u>not be</u> considered by the Committee, unless it is based on facts previously unknown to the player making the claim and he had been given wrong information (Rules 6-2a and 9) by an opponent.</p> <p>Once the result of the match has been officially announced, a later claim may not be considered by the Committee, unless it is satisfied that the opponent knew he was giving wrong information.</p>	<p><u>rise to a claim, the player makes his claim (i) before any player in the match plays from the next teeing ground, or (ii) in the case of the last hole of the match, before all players in the match leave the putting green, or (iii) when the circumstances giving rise to the claim are discovered after all the players in the match have left the putting green of the final hole, before the result of the match has been officially announced.</u></p> <p><u>A claim relating to a prior hole in the match may only be considered by the Committee if it is based on facts previously unknown to the player making the claim and he had been given wrong information (Rules 6-2a or 9) by an opponent. Such a claim must be made in a timely manner.</u></p> <p>Once the result of the match has been officially announced, a claim may not be considered by the Committee, unless it is satisfied that <u>(i) the claim is based on facts which were previously unknown to the player making the claim at the time the result was officially announced, (ii) the player making the claim had been given wrong information by an opponent and (iii) the opponent knew he was giving wrong information. There is no time limit on considering such a claim.</u></p>
<p>Rule 2-5 Note 1, 2</p>	<p>--</p>	<p>Added Notes 1 and 2 Note 1: A player may disregard a breach of the Rules by his opponent provided there is no agreement by the sides to waive a Rule (Rule 1-3). Note 2: In match play, if a player is doubtful of his rights or the correct procedure, he may not complete the play of the hole with two balls.</p>

Rule No.	Text in 2008	Text in 2012
Rule 4-1, 4-2 Penalty	<p>Stroke play – Two strokes for each hole at which any breach occurred; maximum penalty per round - Four strokes.</p> <p>Match or stroke play – In the event of a breach between the play of two holes, the penalty applies to the next hole.</p>	<p>Revised [clarification] Stroke play – Two strokes for each hole at which any breach occurred; maximum penalty per round – Four strokes (<u>two strokes at each of the first two holes at which any breach occurred</u>).</p> <p>Match play or stroke play – <u>If a breach is discovered between the play of two holes, it is deemed to have been discovered during play of the next hole, and the penalty must be applied accordingly.</u></p>
Rule 4-3a	<p>(iii) ... The replacement of a club must not unduly delay play and must not be made by borrowing any club selected for play by any other person playing on the course.</p>	<p>Revised [clarification] (iii) ... The replacement of a club must not unduly delay play and must not be made by borrowing any club selected for play by any other person playing on the course <u>or by assembling components carried by or for the player during the stipulated round.</u></p>
Rule 4-3b,c Penalty	<p>b. Damage Other Than in Normal Course of Play</p> <p>c. Damage Prior to Round PENALTY FOR BREACH OF RULE 4-3b or c: Disqualification.</p>	<p>Revised [reduction of Rule 4-3c penalty] b. Damage Other Than in Normal Course of Play PENALTY FOR BREACH OF RULE 4-3b: Disqualification. c. Damage Prior to Round <u>PENALTY FOR BREACH OF RULE 4-3c:</u> <u>See Penalty Statement for Rule 4-1 or 4-2.</u></p>
Rule 4-4a	<p>a. Selection and Addition of Clubs ... by any other person playing on the course.</p>	<p>Revised [clarification] a. Selection and Addition of Clubs ... by any other person playing on the course <u>or by assembling components carried by or for the player during the stipulated round.</u></p>
Rule 4-4a, b Penalty	<p>--</p>	<p>Revised [clarification] Match play or stroke play – <u>If a breach is discovered between the play of two holes, it is deemed to have been discovered during play of the hole just completed, and the penalty for a breach of Rule 4-4a or b does not apply to the next hole.</u></p>

Rule No.	Text in 2008	Text in 2012
Rule 5-2	<p>5-2. Foreign Material <u>Foreign material must not be applied to a ball</u> for the purpose of changing its playing characteristics.</p>	<p>Revised [clarification] 5-2. Foreign Material <u>The ball the player plays must not have foreign material applied to it for the purpose of changing its playing characteristics.</u></p>
Rule 6-3a Penalty	<p>Penalty for Breach of Rule 6-3: Disqualification.</p>	<p>Revised [reduction of Rule 6-3a penalty] PENALTY FOR BREACH OF RULE 6-3a: <u>If the player arrives at his starting point, ready to play, within five minutes after his starting time, the penalty for failure to start on time is loss of the first hole in match play or two strokes at the first hole in stroke play. Otherwise, the penalty for breach of this Rule is disqualification.</u></p>
Rule 6-3a Penalty Exception	<p>--</p>	<p>Added Exception Exception: Where the Committee determines that exceptional circumstances have prevented a player from starting on time, there is no penalty.</p>
Rule 6-4 Penalty	<p>Stroke play - Two strokes for each hole at which any breach occurred; maximum penalty per round - Four strokes.</p> <p>Match or stroke play - <u>In the event of a breach between the play of two holes, the penalty applies to the next hole.</u></p>	<p>Revised [clarification] Stroke play – Two strokes for each hole at which any breach occurred; maximum penalty per round – Four strokes <u>(two strokes at each of the first two holes at which any breach occurred).</u> Match play or stroke play – <u>If a breach is discovered between the play of two holes, it is deemed to have been discovered during play of the next hole, and the penalty must be applied accordingly.</u></p>
Rule 6-7 Penalty Note 2	<p>In stroke play <u>only</u>...</p>	<p>Revised [added modified penalty for match play] <u>In match play, the Committee may, in such a condition, modify the penalty for a breach of this Rule as follows:</u></p> <p><u>First offense – Loss of hole;</u> <u>Second offense – Loss of hole;</u> <u>For subsequent offense – Disqualification.</u></p>

Rule No.	Text in 2008	Text in 2012
Rule 7-1 Exception	Exception: Practice putting or chipping on or near the first teeing ground before starting a round or play-off is permitted.	Revised [clarification] Exception: Practice putting or chipping on or near the first teeing ground <u>or any practice area</u> before starting a round or play-off is permitted.
Rule 12-1	<p>12-1. Searching for Ball; Seeing Ball</p> <p>In searching for his ball anywhere ...</p>	<p>Revised [reformatted for clarity; amended to (i) permit a player to search for his ball anywhere on the course when it may be covered by sand, and (ii) apply a penalty of one stroke under Rule 18-2a if a player moves his ball in a hazard when searching for it when it is believed to be covered by loose impediments.]</p> <p>12-1. Seeing Ball; Searching for Ball</p> <p>In searching for his ball anywhere ... <u>if the ball is moved, Rule 18-2a applies except as provided in clauses a - d of this Rule.</u></p> <p><u>In addition to the methods of searching for and identifying a ball that are otherwise permitted by the Rules, the player may also search for and identify a ball under Rule 12-1 as follows:</u></p> <p><u>a. Searching for or Identifying Ball Covered by Sand</u> <u>If the player's ball lying anywhere on the course is believed to be covered by sand, to the extent that he cannot find or identify it, he may, without penalty, touch or move the sand in order to find or identify the ball. If the ball is found, and identified as his, the player must re-create the lie as nearly as possible by replacing the sand. If the ball is moved 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. In re-creating a</u></p>

Rule No.	Text in 2008	Text in 2012
	<p>In a hazard, if a ball is believed to be covered by loose impediments or sand, the player may remove by probing or raking with a club or otherwise, as many loose impediments or as much sand as will enable him to see a part of the ball. If an excess is removed, there is no penalty and the ball must be re-covered so that only a part of the ball is visible. If the ball is moved during the removal, there is no penalty; the ball must be replaced and, if necessary, re-covered. As to removal of loose impediments outside a hazard, see Rule 23-1.</p> <p>If a ball is believed to be lying in water in a water hazard, the player may probe for it with a club or otherwise. If the ball is moved in probing, it must be replaced, unless the player elects to proceed under Rule 26-1. There is no penalty for causing the ball to move, provided the movement of the ball was directly attributable to the specific act of probing. Otherwise, the player incurs a penalty stroke under Rule 18-2a.</p>	<p><u>lie under this Rule, the player is permitted to leave a small part of the ball visible.</u></p> <p>b. Searching for or Identifying Ball Covered by Loose Impediments in Hazard</p> <p>In a hazard, if the player's ball is believed to be covered by loose impediments <u>to the extent that he cannot find or identify it, he may, without penalty, touch or move loose impediments in order to find or identify the ball. If the ball is found or identified as his, the player must replace the loose impediments. If the ball is moved during the touching or moving of loose impediments while searching for or identifying the ball, Rule 18-2a applies; if the ball is moved during the replacement of the loose impediments, there is no penalty and the ball must be replaced. If the ball was entirely covered by loose impediments, the player must re-cover the ball but is permitted to leave a small part of the ball visible.</u></p> <p>c. Searching for Ball in Water in Water Hazard</p> <p>If a ball is believed to be lying in water in a water hazard, the player may, <u>without penalty, probe for it with a club or otherwise. If the ball in water is accidentally moved while probing, there is no penalty; the ball must be replaced, unless the player elects to proceed under Rule 26-1. If the moved ball was not lying in water or the ball was accidentally moved by the player other than while probing, Rule 18-2a applies.</u></p> <p>d. Searching for Ball Within Obstruction or Abnormal Ground Condition [no change from 2008]</p>

Rule No.	Text in 2008	Text in 2012
Rule 12-2	<p>If a player has reason to believe a ball at rest is his and it is necessary to lift the ball in order to identify it, he may lift the ball, without penalty, in order to do so.</p> <p>If the ball is the player's ball and he fails to comply with all or any part of this procedure, or he lifts his ball in order to identify it when not necessary to do so, he incurs a penalty of one stroke.</p>	<p>Revised [clarification] If a player believes that a ball at rest <u>might be</u> his, <u>but he cannot</u> identify it, the player may lift the ball for identification, without penalty. <u>The right to lift a ball for identification is in addition to the actions permitted under Rule 12-1.</u></p> <p>If the ball is the player's ball and he fails to comply with all or any part of this procedure, or he lifts his ball in order to identify it <u>without having good reason</u> to do so, he incurs a penalty of one stroke.</p>
Rule 13-2	<p>...in creating or eliminating irregularities of surface within the teeing ground (Rule 11-1) or in removing dew, frost or water from the teeing ground, or</p>	<p>Revised [clarification] ...in creating or eliminating irregularities of surface within the teeing ground or in removing dew, frost or water from the teeing ground, or</p>
Rule 13-4 Exception 2	<p>Exception 2. After making the stroke, if the ball is still in the hazard or has been lifted from the hazard and may be dropped or placed in the hazard, the player may smooth sand or soil in the hazard, provided nothing is done to breach Rule 13-2 with respect to his next stroke. If the ball is outside the hazard after the stroke, the player may smooth sand or soil in the hazard without restriction.</p>	<p>Revised [amended] Exception 2. <u>At any time,</u> the player may smooth sand or soil in a hazard provided <u>this is for the sole purpose of caring for the course and nothing is done to breach Rule 13-2 with respect to his next stroke.</u> If <u>a ball played from a hazard</u> is outside the hazard after the stroke, the player may smooth sand or soil in the hazard without restriction.</p>
Rule 14-2	<p>In making a stroke, a player must not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Accept physical assistance or protection from the elements; or b. Allow his caddie, his partner or his partner's caddie to position himself on or close to an extension of the line of play or the line of putt behind the ball. 	<p>Revised [clarification and reformatted]</p> <p>a. Physical Assistance and Protection from Elements <u>A player must not make a stroke while accepting physical assistance or protection from the elements.</u></p> <p>b. Positioning of Caddie or Partner Behind Ball <u>A player must not make a stroke with his caddie, his partner or his partner's caddie positioned on or close to an extension of the line of play or line of putt behind the ball.</u></p>

Rule No.	Text in 2008	Text in 2012
Rule 14-2 Exception	--	Added Exception Exception: There is no penalty if the player's caddie, his partner or his partner's caddie is inadvertently located on or close to an extension of the line of play or line of putt behind the ball.
Rule 14-3	...Except as provided in the Rules, during a stipulated round the player must not use any artificial device or unusual equipment, or use any equipment in an unusual manner:	Revised [clarification] ...Except as provided in the Rules, during a stipulated round the player must not use any artificial device or unusual equipment (<u>see Appendix IV for detailed specifications and interpretations</u>), or use any equipment in an unusual manner:
Rule 16-1b	b. Lifting and Cleaning Ball A ball on the putting green may be lifted ... the ball must be replaced (see Rule 20-1).	Revised [amended] b. Lifting and Cleaning Ball A ball on the putting green may be lifted ... the ball must be replaced (see Rule 20-1). <u>When another ball is in motion, a ball that might influence the movement of the ball in motion must not be lifted.</u>
Rule 18-2a	a. General When a player's ball is in play, if: (i) the player, his partner or either of their caddies lifts or moves it, touches it purposely (except with a club in the act of addressing it) or causes it to move except as permitted by a Rule , or (ii) equipment of the player or his partner causes the ball to move ,the player incurs a penalty of one stroke. If the ball is moved, it must be replaced, unless the movement of the ball occurs after the	Revised [clarification and reformatted] a. General <u>Except as permitted by the Rules</u> , when a player's ball is in play, if (i) the player, his partner or either of their caddies: • lifts or moves the ball, • touches it purposely (except with a club in the act of addressing the ball), or • causes the ball to move, or (ii) equipment of the player or his partner causes the ball to move ,the player incurs a penalty of one stroke. If the ball is moved, it must be replaced, unless the movement of the ball occurs after the

Rule No.	Text in 2008	Text in 2012
	<p>player has begun the stroke or the backward movement of the club for the stroke and the stroke is made.</p> <p>Under the Rules there is no penalty if a player accidentally causes his ball to move in the following circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In searching for a ball in a hazard covered by loose impediments or sand, for a ball in an obstruction or abnormal ground condition or for a ball believed to be in water in a water hazard - Rule 12-1 	<p>player has begun the stroke or the backward movement of the club for the stroke and the stroke is made.</p> <p>Under the Rules there is no penalty if a player accidentally causes his ball to move in the following circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In searching for a <u>ball covered by sand, in the replacement of loose impediments moved in a hazard while finding or identifying a ball, in probing for a ball lying</u> in water in a water hazard or in searching for a ball in an obstruction or an abnormal ground condition – Rule 12-1.
Rule 18-2b Exception	--	<p>Added Exception Exception: If it is known or virtually certain that the player did not cause his ball to move, Rule 18-2b does not apply.</p>
Rule 19-1 Note	<p>Note: If the referee or the Committee determines that a player's ball has been purposely deflected or stopped by an outside agency, Rule 1-4 applies to the player. If the outside agency is a fellow-competitor or his caddie, Rule 1-2 applies to the fellow-competitor.</p>	<p>Revised [amended] Note: <u>If a player's ball in motion has been deliberately deflected or stopped by an outside agency:</u> <u>(a) after a stroke from anywhere other than on the putting green, the spot where the ball would have come to rest must be estimated. If that spot is:</u> <u>(i) through the green or in a hazard, the ball must be dropped as near as possible to that spot;</u> <u>(ii) out of bounds, the player must proceed under Rule 27-1; or</u> <u>(iii) on the putting green, the ball must be placed on that spot.</u> <u>(b) after a stroke on the putting green, the stroke is canceled. The ball must be replaced and replayed.</u> If the outside agency is a fellow-competitor or his caddie, Rule 1-2 applies to the fellow-competitor.</p>

Rule No.	Text in 2008	Text in 2012
Rule 19-5b	<p>b. In Motion</p> <p>If a player's ball in motion after a stroke is deflected or stopped by another ball in motion after a stroke, the player must play his ball as it lies. There is no penalty, unless the player was in breach of Rule 16-1f, in which case he incurs the penalty for breach of that Rule.</p> <p>Exception: If the player's ball is in motion after a stroke on the putting green and the other ball in motion is an outside agency - see Rule 19-1b.</p>	<p>Revised [clarification and amended]</p> <p>b. In Motion</p> <p>If a player's ball in motion after a stroke <u>other than on the putting green</u> is deflected or stopped by another ball in motion after a stroke, the player must play his ball as it lies, <u>without penalty</u>.</p> <p><u>If a player's ball in motion after a stroke on the putting green is deflected or stopped by another ball in motion after a stroke, the player's stroke is canceled. The ball must be replaced and replayed, without penalty.</u></p>
Rule 19-5b Note	--	<p>Added Note</p> <p>Note: Nothing in this Rule overrides the provisions of Rule 10-1 (Order of Play in Match Play) or Rule 16-1f (Making Stroke While Another Ball in Motion).</p>
Rule 20-3b Note	--	<p>Added Note</p> <p>Note: If the original lie of a ball to be placed or replaced has been altered and it is impossible to determine the spot where the ball is to be placed or replaced, Rule 20-3b applies if the original lie is known, and Rule 20-3c applies if the original lie is not known.</p>
Rule 20-3b Exception	--	<p>Added Exception</p> <p>Exception: If the player is searching for or identifying a ball covered by sand – see Rule 12-1a.</p>

Rule No.	Text in 2008	Text in 2012
Rule 20-1, 20-2, 20-3 Penalty	Penalty for Breach of Rule 20-1, 20-2 or 20-3: Match play - Loss of hole; Stroke play - Two strokes.	Revised [amended] *PENALTY FOR BREACH OF RULE 20-1, 20-2 or 20-3: Match play – Loss of hole; Stroke play – Two strokes. <u>*If a player makes a stroke at a ball substituted under one of these Rules when such substitution is not permitted, he incurs the general penalty for breach of that Rule, but there is no additional penalty under that Rule. If a player drops a ball in an improper manner and plays from a wrong place or if the ball has been put into play by a person not permitted by the Rules and then played from a wrong place, see Note 3 to Rule 20-7c.</u>
Rule 20-7c Note 3	Note 3: If a player incurs a penalty for making a stroke from a wrong place, there is no additional penalty for substituting a ball when not permitted.	Revised [amended] Note 3: If a player incurs a penalty for making a stroke from a wrong place, there is no additional penalty for: (a) substituting a ball when not permitted; <u>(b) dropping a ball when the Rules require it to be placed, or placing a ball when the Rules require it to be dropped;</u> (c) dropping a ball in an improper manner; or <u>(d) a ball being put into play by a person not permitted to do so under the Rules.</u>
Rule 22-1 Note	--	Added Note Note: When another ball is in motion, a ball that might influence the movement of the ball in motion must not be lifted.
Rule 22-2 Note 2	--	Added Note 2 Note: When another ball is in motion, a ball that might influence the movement of the ball in motion must not be lifted.

Rule No.	Text in 2008	Text in 2012
Rule 24-2b, Rule 25-1b Exception	<p>Exception: A player may not take relief under this Rule if (a) it is clearly unreasonable for him to make a stroke because of interference by anything other than an immovable obstruction or (b) interference by an immovable obstruction would occur only through use of an unnecessarily abnormal stance, swing or direction of play.</p>	<p>Revised [clarification] Exception: A player may not take relief under this Rule if (a) interference by anything other than an immovable obstruction <u>makes the stroke clearly impracticable</u> or (b) interference by an immovable obstruction would occur only through use of a <u>clearly unreasonable stroke</u> or an unnecessarily abnormal stance, swing or direction of play.</p>
Rule 26-1	<p>26-1. Relief for Ball in Water Hazard</p> <p>It is a question of fact whether a ball that has not been found after having been struck toward a water hazard is in the hazard. In order to apply this Rule, it must be known or virtually certain that the ball is in the hazard. In the absence of such knowledge or certainty, the player must proceed under Rule 27-1.</p> <p>If a ball is in a water hazard or if it is known or virtually certain that a ball that has not been found is in a water hazard (whether the ball lies in water or not), the player may under penalty of one stroke:</p> <p>a. Play a ball as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was last played (see Rule 20-5); or</p>	<p>Revised [clarification] 26-1. Relief for Ball in Water Hazard</p> <p>It is a question of fact whether a ball that has not been found after having been struck toward a water hazard is in the hazard. <u>In the absence of knowledge or virtual certainty that a ball struck toward a water hazard, but not found, is in the hazard,</u> the player must proceed under Rule 27-1.</p> <p>If a ball is <u>found</u> in a water hazard or if it is known or virtually certain that a ball that has not been found is in the water hazard (whether the ball lies in water or not), the player may under penalty of one stroke:</p> <p>a. <u>Proceed under the stroke and distance provision of Rule 27-1 by playing</u> a ball as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was last played (see Rule 20-5); or</p>

Rule No.	Text in 2008	Text in 2012
Rule 27-1c Exception(s)	<p>Exceptions:</p> <p>1. If it is known or virtually certain that the original ball that has not been found is in an obstruction (Rule 24-3) or is in an abnormal ground condition (Rule 25-1c), the player may proceed under the applicable Rule.</p> <p>2. If it is known or virtually certain that the original ball that has not been found has been moved by an outside agency (Rule 18-1) or is in a water hazard (Rule 26-1), the player must proceed under the applicable Rule.</p>	<p>Revised [amended]</p> <p>Exception: If it is known or virtually certain that the original ball, that has not been found, has been moved by an outside agency (Rule 18-1), is in an obstruction (Rule 24-3), is in an abnormal ground condition (Rule 25-1) or is in a water hazard (Rule 26-1), the player <u>may</u> proceed under the applicable Rule.</p>
Rule 27-2b Exception	<p>Exception: If it is known or virtually certain that the original ball is in an obstruction (Rule 24-3) or an abnormal ground condition (Rule 25-1c), the player may proceed under the applicable Rule.</p>	<p>Revised [amended]</p> <p>Exception: If it is known or virtually certain that the original ball, <u>that has not been found, has been moved by an outside agency (Rule 18-1), or is in an obstruction (Rule 24-3) or an abnormal ground condition (Rule 25-1c), the player may proceed under the applicable Rule.</u></p>
Rule 27-2c	<p>c. When Provisional Ball to Be Abandoned</p> <p>If the original ball is neither lost nor out of bounds, the player must abandon the provisional ball and continue playing the original ball. If he makes any further strokes at the provisional ball, he is playing a wrong ball and the provisions of Rule 15-3 apply.</p>	<p>Revised [clarification]</p> <p>c. When Provisional Ball to be Abandoned</p> <p>If the original ball is neither lost nor out of bounds, the player must abandon the provisional ball and continue playing the original ball. <u>If it is known or virtually certain that the original ball is in a water hazard, the player may proceed in accordance with Rule 26-1. In either situation, if the player makes any further strokes at the provisional ball, he is playing a wrong ball and the provisions of Rule 15-3 apply.</u></p>
Rule 28a	<p>a. Play a ball as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was last played (see Rule 20-5); or</p>	<p>Revised [clarification]</p> <p>a. <u>Proceed under the stroke and distance provision of Rule 27-1 by playing</u> a ball as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was last played (see Rule 20-5); or</p>

Rule No.	Text in 2008	Text in 2012
Rule 30-2a	<p>a. Ball at Rest Moved by an Opponent</p> <p>Except as otherwise provided in the Rules, if the player's ball is touched or moved by an opponent, his caddie or equipment other than during search, Rule 18-3b applies. That opponent incurs a penalty of one stroke in his match with the player, but not in his match with the other opponent.</p>	<p>Revised [clarification]</p> <p>a. Ball at Rest Moved or <u>Purposely Touched</u> by an Opponent</p> <p><u>If an opponent incurs a penalty stroke under Rule 18-3b, that penalty is incurred only in the match with the player whose ball was touched or moved. No penalty is incurred in his match with the other player.</u></p>
Rule 31-7a	<p>31-7. Disqualification Penalties</p> <p>a. Breach by One Partner</p> <p>A <i>side</i> is disqualified from the competition if either <i>partner</i> incurs a penalty of disqualification under any of the following:</p>	<p>Revision [amended]</p> <p>31-7. Disqualification Penalties</p> <p>a. Breach by One Partner</p> <p>A <i>side</i> is disqualified from the competition if either <i>partner</i> incurs a penalty of disqualification under any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Rule 10-2c Sides Agree to Play Out of Turn</u>
Rule 32-1a Note 2	<p>a. Bogey and Par Competitions</p> <p>Note 2: If the competitor is in breach of Rule 6-7 (Undue Delay; Slow Play), the Committee will deduct one hole from the aggregate of holes. For a repeated offense, see Rule 32-2a.</p>	<p>Revised [amended]</p> <p>a. Bogey and Par Competitions</p> <p>Note 2: If the competitor <u>is in breach of Rule 6-3a (Time of Starting) but arrives at his starting point, ready to play, within five minutes after his starting time, or</u> is in breach of Rule 6-7 (Undue Delay; Slow Play), the Committee will deduct one hole from the aggregate of holes. For a repeated offense <u>under Rule 6-7, see Rule 32-2a.</u></p>
Rule 32-1b Note 2	<p>b. Stableford Competitions</p> <p>Note 2: If the competitor is in breach of Rule 6-7 (Undue Delay; Slow Play), the Committee will deduct two points from the total points scored for the round. For a repeated offense, see Rule 32-2a.</p>	<p>Revised [amended]</p> <p>b. Stableford Competitions</p> <p>Note 2: If the competitor <u>is in breach of Rule 6-3a (Time of Starting) but arrives at his starting point, ready to play, within five minutes after his starting time, or</u> is in breach of Rule 6-7 (Undue Delay; Slow Play), the Committee will deduct two points from the total points scored for the round. For a repeated offense <u>under Rule 6-7, see Rule 32-2a.</u></p>

Rule No.	Text in 2008	Text in 2012
Rule 32-1b Note 3	--	<p>Added Note 3</p> <p>Note 3: For the purpose of preventing slow play, the Committee may, in the conditions of a competition (Rule 33-1), establish pace of play guidelines, including maximum periods of time allowed to complete a stipulated round, a hole or a stroke.</p> <p>The Committee may, in such a condition, modify the penalty for a breach of this Rule as follows: First offense – Deduction of one point from the total points scored for the round; Second offense – Deduction of a further two points from the total points scored for the round; For subsequent offense – Disqualification.</p>
Appendix IV	--	<p>Added Appendix IV - Devices and Other Equipment</p> <p>A player in doubt as to whether use of a device or other equipment would constitute a breach of the Rules should consult the USGA.</p> <p>A manufacturer should submit to the USGA a sample of a device or other equipment to be manufactured for a ruling as to whether its use during a stipulated round 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 device or other equipment, the manufacturer assumes the risk of a ruling that use of the device or other equipment would be contrary to the Rules.</p>

Rule No.	Text in 2008	Text in 2012
		<p>The following paragraphs prescribe general regulations for the design of devices and other equipment, together with specifications and interpretations. They should be read in conjunction with Rule 11-1 (Teeing Ground) and Rule 14-3 (Artificial Devices, Unusual Equipment and Unusual Use of Equipment).</p> <p>1. Tees (Rule 11)</p> <p>A tee is a device designed to raise the ball off the ground. A tee must not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be longer than 4 inches (101.6 mm); • be designed or manufactured in such a way that it could indicate line of play; • unduly influence the movement of the ball; or • otherwise assist the player in making a stroke or in his play. <p>2. Gloves (Rule 14-3)</p> <p>Gloves may be worn to assist the player in gripping the club, provided they are plain.</p> <p>A “plain” glove must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consist of a fitted covering of the hand with a separate sheath or opening for each digit (fingers and thumb); and • be made of smooth materials on the full palm and gripping surface of the digits;

Rule No.	Text in 2008	Text in 2012
		<p>A “plain” glove must not incorporate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • material on the gripping surface or inside of the glove, the primary purpose of which is to provide padding or which has the effect of providing padding. Padding is defined as an area of glove material which is more than 0.025 inches (0.635 mm) thicker than the adjacent areas of the glove without the added material; <p>Note: Material may be added for wear resistance, moisture absorption or other functional purposes, provided it does not exceed the definition of padding (see above).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • straps to assist in preventing the club from slipping or to attach the hand to the club; • any means of binding digits together; • material on the glove that adheres to material on the grip; • features, other than visual aids, designed to assist the player in placing his hands in a consistent and/or specific position on the grip; • weight to assist the player in making a stroke; • any feature that might restrict the movement of a joint; or • any other feature that might assist the player in making a stroke or in his play. <p>3. Shoes (Rule 14-3)</p> <p>Shoes that assist the player in obtaining a firm stance may be worn. Subject to the conditions of competition, features such as spikes on the sole are permitted, but shoes must not incorporate features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • designed to assist the player in taking his stance

Rule No.	Text in 2008	Text in 2012
		<p>and/or building a stance;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • designed to assist the player with his alignment; or • that might otherwise assist the player in making a stroke or in his play. <p>4. Clothing (Rule 14-3)</p> <p>Articles of clothing must not incorporate features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • designed to assist the player with his alignment; or • that might otherwise assist the player in making a stroke or in his play. <p>5. Distance-Measuring Devices (Rule 14-3)</p> <p>During a stipulated round, 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 stroke or in his play (e.g., club selection, type of shot to be played, green reading or any other

Rule No.	Text in 2008	Text in 2012
		<p>advice related matter); or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 Rules, 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>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 Rules, whether or not they are actually used.</p>