

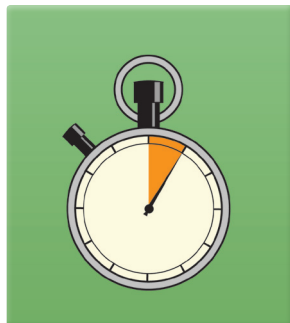


Yves C. Ton-That is an official referee and author. His award-winning books on the rules of golf have been translated into more than 20 languages and one million copies have been sold. The new edition of his practical rules guide "Golf Rules Quick Reference" containing the new rules for the years 2012–2015 has just been published.

The new golf rules 2012–2015

As of 01/01/2012 new golf rules came into effect. We have summarized the most important changes for you. The new golf rules will remain in force until 12/31/2015.

Late arrival at the first tee (Rule 6-3)



Up until now, if you arrived at the first tee just 30 seconds after your starting time you virtually always had to be disqualified.

A period of grace has been granted in the new rules—if you arrive at the tee within 5 minutes after your starting time and are ready to tee off you will receive 2 penalty strokes (in match play you will lose the first hole). If you arrive more than 5 minutes late you will be disqualified as before.

Good to know: Many clubs already had the "5-minute rule" in their Conditions of Competition but now this applies to all golfers throughout the world.

Players arriving up to 5 minutes late are given 2 penalty strokes; if they are later than this they are disqualified.

Ball moved during a search (Rule 12-1)



Up until now, this rule included an exception in favour of the player—if he moved his ball when searching for it under loose impediments in a hazard, i.e. under leaves in a bunker in particular, no penalty would be incurred as an exception. This exception has been revoked in order to make the rules more uniform.

Under the new rules, you also incur 1 penalty stroke if you move your ball when searching for it under loose impediments, including in hazards. The ball must be put back.

Good to know: This change is not a significant constraint as it only applies to the rare situation when the ball is covered by leaves in a hazard.

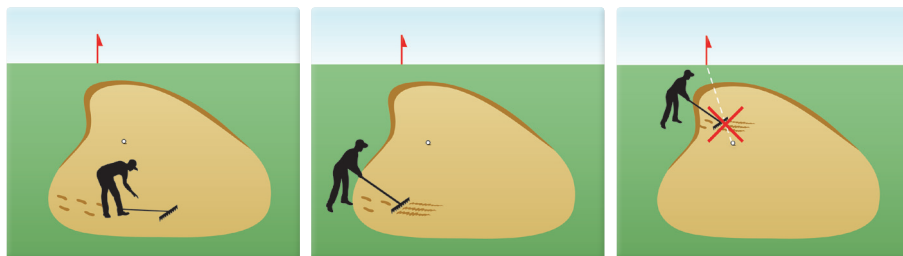
If you move your ball when searching for it you must put it back, incurring 1 penalty stroke—even in the event that the ball is covered by leaves in a bunker.

Smoothing out marks in a bunker (Rule 13-4)

Up until now, players were not allowed to smooth out any marks in the bunker before playing their shot (even if, for example, they picked up the rake at the other end of the bunker and left marks when doing so).

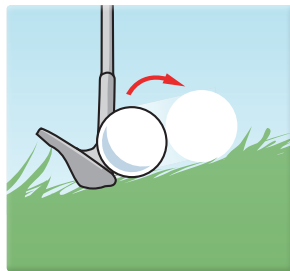
Under the new rules, you are permitted to smooth out marks in the sand even before hitting your bunker shot. However, this is subject to the strict condition that smoothing out the marks is for the purpose of caring for the course only and that it does not result in any advantage for your stroke. In particular, you are not permitted to improve the lie of your ball or smooth out any marks on your line of play.

Good to know: This is not a license to rake the entire bunker. Its sole purpose is to ensure that players who, with good intentions, carry out an action that is primarily intended to care for the course are not penalized.



Players are permitted to smooth out marks in the sand even before making their bunker shot if raking the sand is solely for the purpose of caring for the course and the player does not gain any advantage for his next shot.

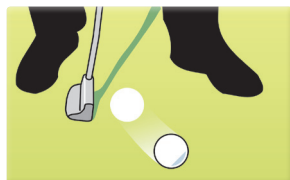
Ball moved when addressing it (Rule 18-2)



Up until now, if the ball moved after the player addressed the ball (after taking his stance and grounding his club) the player incurred 1 penalty stroke every time because it was always assumed that addressing the ball caused it to move. The ball had to be put back.

While this assumption at the expense of the player still applies, the rule has been changed in two aspects. Under the new rules, the ball is considered addressed as soon as the player has grounded his club in front of or behind the ball, it is not necessary for him to have also taken his stance. Furthermore, an exception has been introduced in favour of the player. If it is clear that it was not the player but, for example, the wind that caused the ball to move he will not incur a penalty even if he had grounded the club behind the ball. The ball must be played from its new lie.

Good to know: This new exception is not a free license for smart alics ("From now on I will always claim that it was the wind that moved my ball."). The decisive factor is always who or what caused the ball to move. If a player has grounded his club behind the ball on the fairway it is basically to be assumed that he caused the ball to move by pressing down individual blades of grass. In practice, only on the green will a player be able to plausibly claim that the wind moved his ball—i.e. when he grounds his putter but does not touch the ball and the ball moves by itself. This exception was mainly created for the extremely fast greens on the professional tour; for us amateurs it will only come into play very rarely.



If a gust of wind moves your ball you must play it from the new position and a penalty is not incurred—even if you have already grounded the putter.

Hole-in-one prizes (Rules of Amateur Status)



Up until now, amateurs were not allowed to accept any prizes above the value of US\$ 750.- **While the prize limit is still in force, the hole-in-one prizes are not now included. This means prizes, such as a car, can be awarded for getting a hole-in-one during a round.**

There is no longer an upper limit for hole-in-one prizes.

Not keen on learning all that off-by-heart?

No problem, with "Golf Rules Quick Reference 2012–2015" you always have all the rules to hand. In this guide, the rules are explained in an easy-to-understand way, on the basis of specific situations. Thanks to the practical tabs ("Tee", "Fairway & rough", "Bunker", "Water hazard" etc.), you can find the correct solution within just a few seconds.

- 170 illustrations
- Global bestseller in more than 20 languages
- More than 1 million copies sold
- The no. 1 book on the rules of golf
- With the golf rules valid until the end of 2015

"Golf Rules Quick Reference – A Practical Guide for Use on the Course" by Yves C. Ton-That, 48 pages, colored illustrations, plastic coated and spiral-bound, Artigo Publishing, 1st edition 2012, ISBN 978-3-909596-49-2, US\$ 12.95

Available from book stores and from good golf shops, or directly from www.golfrulesmadeeasy.com

