

# 2019 USGA Major Rule Change of the Week...

Major Rule Change - *Ball moved during search*

Under Rule 7.4, *If a player accidentally moves his or her ball while searching for it*

- *The player will get no penalty for causing it to move, and*
- *The ball will always be replaced; if the exact spot is not known, the player will replace the ball on the estimated original spot (including on, under or against any attached natural or man made objects which the ball had been at rest under or against.)*

USGA “Reasons for Change”

- *A fundamental principal of golf is to play the ball as it lies; so the rules should the player to find his or her ball and plait from the spot where it was at rest.*
- *Players often need to probe in grass, bushes, leaves and other conditions to look for a hidden ball, and such reasonable acts create an inherent risk of moving the ball.*

[Click here to watch the video explanation of Rule 7.4](#)



*Each of these rules changes will take effect on January 1, 2019.*

*Our hope is to make as many golfers knowledgeable of the upcoming rules changes before the new year.*

*Good Luck & Play Well!*

