

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

Major Rule Change - *Moving or touching loose impediments or touching sand in a bunker*

*Under Rules 12.2a and 12.2b, the player will be allowed to touch or move loose impediments in a bunker and will be generally allowed to touch the sand with a hand or club; but a limited prohibition continues so that the player must not;*

- Deliberately touch the sand in a bunker with a hand, club, rake, or other object to test the condition of the sand to learn information for the stroke, or touch the sand in a bunker with a club in making a practice swing, in grounding the club right in front of or behind the ball, or in making backswing of the stroke.*

## USGA "Reasons for Change"

- The challenge of playing from a bunker is the need to play out of the sand, not to play with leaves, stones or other loose impediments left in place in the bunker.*
- The current approach has created confusion by stating a total prohibition on touching the sand with a hand or club and then recognizing many exceptions.*

[Click here to watch the video](#)

[explanation of Rules 12.2a & 12.2b](#)



*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!*

