As you might know, the Rules of Golf are changing as of January 1, 2019. They have been simplified and modernized, making them easier to put into practice. In the next five issues, we’ll be breaking down these changes for you, reviewing those that would be of most interest to golfers and that will have the most impact on the game.

These changes are also listed in more detail on the USGA website. You can get your free copy of the Player’s Edition of the Rules of Golf 2019 by clicking here. The USGA Rules of Golf 2019 smartphone app is also available for download. We hope all of these resources will make the transition easier for you!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RULE</th>
<th>New in 2019:</th>
<th>(Old Rule):</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ball accidentally moved during search</td>
<td>Put the ball back in the estimated original spot, no penalty</td>
<td>1 stroke penalty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ball accidentally moved on the putting green</td>
<td>Put the ball back in the estimated original spot, no penalty</td>
<td>1 stroke penalty (with exceptions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Replacing ball when original spot not known</td>
<td>Put the ball back in the estimated original spot, even if on, under, or against natural objects</td>
<td>Drop as near to estimated spot as possible</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ball in motion accidentally deflected by you, caddie, or equipment</td>
<td>No penalty, play ball as it lies</td>
<td>1 stroke penalty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accidentally hit the ball more than once during a stroke</td>
<td>No penalty</td>
<td>1 stroke penalty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How to drop a ball</td>
<td>Straight down from player’s knee height</td>
<td>At arm’s length from player’s shoulder height</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How to measure size of relief area</td>
<td>Measure 1 or 2 club-lengths using longest club, other than putter</td>
<td>Measure 1 or 2 club-lengths using any club</td>
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Brandon McIver Advances in Web.com Qualifying

Billings native, Brandon McIver, has been working on his game and grinding the mini-tour circuit since graduating from the University of Oregon. McIver’s undeniable talent and perseverance was rewarded recently as he advanced to the second stage of Web.com Tour Qualifying, after finishing fourth in stage one qualifying at SunRiver Golf Club in St. George, Utah.

Finishing at 20-under-par, McIver’s game was certainly in top form as he finished fourth overall, two shots behind Bio Kim and Rhett Rasmussen. The top-21 finishers advance to the second stage of qualifying for the PGA Tour’s top mini-tour, a level below the PGA Tour, but successful launching point for numerous touring professionals.

A 2012 Billings West graduate and three-time AA State Championship, he has found success at all levels of amateur golf, winning back-to-back Montana State Amateur Championships (2013-14) and was a member of the 2016 University of Oregon National Championship team. He earned his first professional win on the Adams Tour this summer at the NWA Charity Classic played at Bella-Vista Village Highlands Golf Course in Bella Vista, Arkansas. In St. George, McIver shot a final round 66 (-4) after coming in to the final day with a nine-shot margin in relation to the cut line. He put himself into position on day two as he posted the tournament’s low round with a 61 (-9).

Last year, McIver missed the cut by one shot, but moves on to stage two play at TPC Craig Ranch in McKinney, Texas, on November 6-9. If he advances, a month later final qualifying is set for December 6-9 in Chandler, Arizona, at Whirlwind Golf Club.
Class AA

The Bozeman Hawks have been a mainstay atop prep scoreboards in the AA ranks for golf and the 2018 season concluded with a sweep of hardware for Bozeman, as the Hawks claimed both team and individual medalist honors at Butte Country Club.

On the girls’ side, the Hawks won their third consecutive team title by a considerable margin as Bozeman posted team totals of 331-316 for a 647 tournament score, 42 shots better than second-place Billings West (689). Tournament host, Butte High School, was third at 719.

While the team score was never in doubt, the individual competition was fierce, as several golfers had a chance down the stretch to compete for medalist honors. Annika Danenhauer, a two-time runner up at the state championship, was able to taste victory after Billings West’s Carrie Carpenter was unable to convert a four-footer to tie on the final hole at Butte Country Club. Danenhauer (78-76, 154) edged out Carpenter (73-82) for the victory and lead her team to the 2018 title. Emily Garden of Missoula Sentinel (77-80, 157) finished third and was in contention during the final round as was defending champion, Laurel Ward of Bozeman (83-76, 159). All five Bozeman Hawks cracked the top-15 to earn All-State honors. Cora Rosanova rounded out the top five (81-79, 160) with Marcella Mercer of Flathead (82-78, 160). Maya Priebe and Sami Yates finished 11th and 12th overall for Bozeman. Click here for full results.

On the boys’ side, the Hawks provided a very similar storyline as all five players earned All-State recognition en route to a record-setting state title performance. While the girls’ team was celebrating a third-consecutive title, the win for Bozeman was their first in 21 years, but they did it in style as they set the AA team scoring record. Bozeman posted team totals of 284-291, 575, to win by nearly 50 shots over second-place Missoula Sentinel (624). No other team broke 300 for the tournament and third place was claimed by Billings West (628).

Freshman Justus Verge set the pace with an opening round 66 (-4) and protected a five shot lead to win medalist honors with a total of 138 (-2), six shots better than twin-brother Jordan (73-71, 144). Jack Johnston of Sentinel was third (76-69, 145) and Bozeman’s J.R. Small (71-75, 146) and Billings Skyview’s Cody Brunner (71-75, 146) tied for fourth overall. Jack Thorsen (148) was eighth and Ramey Lloyd (155) was 11th to round out the victorious Bozeman effort. Click here for full results.

Class A

Ryggs Johnston had a goal when he began his prep career: to win four state championships. His journey to achieving the goal covered many miles and faced many competitors, as the Libby Loggers moved from Class B to Class A halfway through Johnston’s career. Nevertheless, not only did he set records in both (and all classes) during his career, he was able to achieve his original goal winning his fourth title this fall at Hamilton Golf Course for the Class A State Championship.

The 2018 Montana State Amateur Winner posted a first round 67 (-5) and closed with 70, to finish seven-under-par and eight shots ahead of his nearest competition, a four-way tie at 145. Johnston caps the most impressive prep career in Montana history and heads to Tempe, Arizona, next fall to begin a collegiate career at Arizona State.

While Johnston was the lone representative for Libby at the tournament, it was the Laurel Locomotives who captured their second consecutive team title as they posted 289-308, 597, an impressive number and 28 shots clear of host team, Hamilton, at 625. Stevensville managed 659 to earn third.

Laurel’s back-to-back championship effort was led by Carson Hackmann (72-73, 145) who tied four second overall. Laurel saw all five team members earn All-State honors. Cameron Kahle (73-72, 145) of Whitefish, Matt Hobbs (74-71, 145) of Polson, Tristan Hanson (75-70, 145) of Hamilton, and Hackmann tied for runner-up distinction. Nick Pasquarello of Laurel (150) was next in sixth, Cash Golden (151) T7, Paul O’Neil (152) was ninth, and Kade Ewalt (159) was 12th to round out Laurel’s hardware earning squad. Click here for full results. ...Continued next page
Much like their counterparts in the AA ranks, the Class A competition saw the same school claim both team titles, as the girls from Laurel also were victorious. The Locomotives posted 367-359, 726, and 34 shots better than second-place Whitefish (760). Corvallis was third at 782.

It was a two-player race for medalist honors, as day one leader, Tricia Joyce of Butte Central, backed up a 75 with a 77 for a 152 total, to best runner-up Macee Greenwood of Corvallis (78-79, 157). Joyce and Greenwood were the only players to break 80 during the tournament. Ella Shaw of Whitefish (88-85, 173) placed third. Sisters Hannah Adams (89-87, 176) and Haylee Adams (92-84, 176) tied for fourth for Laurel to pace their team to victory. Elise Shovar (184) tied for ninth to earn All-State honors for Laurel and Keli Hodges (190) and Madi Cooney (205) rounded out play for the state champions. Click here for full results.

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**Fall Collegiate Recap**

*Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director*

**Big Sky Conference**

The University of Montana women’s golf team found their stride in California after a final-round 301, to move up to fifth place out of 12 teams at the Wyoming Cowgirl Desert Intercollegiate (Classic Club, Palm Desert, California). The Grizzlies’ 301 matched the best round of the tournament. Montana opened with 324-308 on day one, and finished with a tournament total of 933. UTEP finished in first with a total of 910 (305-303-302). Leading the way for the Griz was senior Baylee Barckley (77-72-75, 224) who tied for fifth, six shots behind individual champion Jakeishya Le (71-76-71, 218) of UC Riverside. A key to Montana’s success was the play of its three freshmen on day 2: Kylie Esh posted 74, and Allison Sobol and Brooklyn Van Bebber each shot 76. Teigan Avery (79-78-80, 237) tied for 28th, Sobol (86-77-76, 239) tied for 36th, Van Bebber (85-81-76, 239) tied for 45th, and Esh (83-88-74, 245) tied for 53rd. Sophomore Faith D’Ortenzio competed as an individual shooting 84-78-75, 237 tying with Avery for 28th. Click here for full results.

The Grizzlies wrapped up their 2018 fall slate at the Pat Lesser Harbottle Invitational at Tacoma Country & Golf Club in Lakewood, Washington. Barckley racked up her second consecutive top-10 finish with rounds of 74-75-72, for a 221 total, good enough for ninth overall. Montana shot 312-313-304 for a team total of 929, tying for 14th with Gonzaga out of 18 teams. D’Ortenzio (80-78-77, 235) finished T57, Esh (84-74-80, 238) was T72, and Avery (79-87-77, 243) and Van Bebber (79-86-78, 243) tied for 79th. Allison Sobol (84-79-74, 237), who was playing as an individual tied for 62nd. Santa Clara (299-301-291, 891) won the team title by four strokes over Houston Baptist (303-294-298, 895). Houston Baptist’s Kaity Cummings (73-70-71) and Washington’s Karen Miyamoto (74-71-69) both finished 2-under, with Cummings defeating Miyamoto in a three-hole playoff for medalist honors. Click here for full results.

Montana State University finished seventh out of eleven teams at the Rose City Collegiate at Langdon Farms Golf Club in Aurora, Oregon. MSU posted a 918 total (294-307-317). The Bobcats were led by Kelly Hooper, who finished fourth individually with rounds of 70-73-77 for a 220 total. Coral Schulz nearly made top-10 with bookend rounds of one-over-par (73-78-73, 224) to finish in a tie for 11th. Delaney Elliott posted 239 (80-77-82) for 44th, Clare Dittemore (75-79-89, 244) and Hailey Oster (76-82-85, 244) tied for 51st. Grand Canyon’s Courtney Vogel won the individual title by shooting a 211, and host Portland State claimed the team victory with a total of 894. Click here for full results.

Along with UM, MSU finished up their fall schedule at the Pat Lesser Harbottle Invitational, finishing 16th. Freshman Sofia Rodriguez Todd (81-77-76, 234) finished tied for 49th as the low finisher for the Bobcats. Juniors Elliott (76-80-81), Schulz (76-84-77), and Hooper (77-84-76) all finished in a tie for 64th at 237. Freshman Hailey Oster rounded out play for MSU with 91-85-81, 257, total for 93rd overall. Both Montana and Montana State won’t play in another tournament until February, when the Grizzlies head to Southern California and the Battle at the Rock in Riverside.

**Great Northwest Athletic Conference**

Montana State University Billings men’s golf team wrapped up their fall conference schedule at the Concordia University Invitational at Columbia Edgewater Golf Club. The Yellowjackets shot a team score of 940 (315-308-317) to finish sixth out of eight teams. Sophomore Caleb Trost was the top finisher for MSUB as he tied for 20th place ...Continued next page
with a three-round total of 228 (77-77-74). Junior Garrett Woodin (229) was one shot back from Trost with a T22 finish after rounds of 76-74-77. Next was junior Payton Stott in 33rd after posting 240 (78-80-82). Sophomore Logan Martin placed 39th with a total of 245 (85-75-85) and fellow sophomore Riley Kaercher was 41st with a total of 254 (90-78-86). Fellow GNAC school Western Washington University was impressive in winning the team title, shooting a three-round score of 844 (280-281-283). The Vikings' Jordan Lee won the event with a blistering 205 (67-66-72). Click here for full results.

The MSUB women's golf team had a busy October. The Yellowjackets brought their 'A' Game to Olympia, Washington, and claimed the team title at the Saint Martin's University Invitational. Held at Olympia Golf and Country Club, MSUB bested seven other schools with a two-day total of 640 (329-311). Senior Shealyn Hafer led the way with a two-round total of 156 (79-55), and finished in second place behind Concordia University's Cammie Decker at 151 (77-74). Freshmen Kinsey Irvin (77-82, 159) and Tierney Messmer (85-75, 160) were also in the top-five, finishing fourth and fifth, respectively. Sophomore Renae Heisler (88-77, 165) cracked the top-10, finishing T8. Also competing in the event for MSUB was senior Sarah Schroefel who shot 89-90, 179 for T27 overall. The Yellowjackets were 14 strokes better than second place Simon Fraser University. Click here for full results.

The Yellowjackets went straight from Olympia to Bellingham, Washington, to compete in the Western Washington Invitational. This time, the Yellowjackets faced some strong competition and finished 10th out of 13 teams. MSUB's team scores were 331 and 327, their 658 total 48 behind Sonoma State (298-312, 610). Heisler was the low finisher with 160 (80-80) for 24th. Hafer was T40 with 165 (85-80), followed by Schroefel (85-82, 167) in T45, Messmer (83-85, 168) in T51, and Irvin rounding out play in a tie for 53rd (83-86, 169). Click here for full results. Stroke play is over for MSUB until the spring of 2019.

Frontier Conference
Rocky Mountain College Invitational
The Battlin' Bears of Rocky Mountain College hosted their annual invitational for the men's and women's teams with competitors from the Frontier Conference, NAIA and NCAA Division II. The Bears used home course advantage and brilliant play at Yegen Golf Club in Billings to claim both the men's and women's titles.

The Rocky men finished 43 shots ahead of second place Corban University and Providence of Great Falls. The Battlin' Bears posted rounds of 268-264-269 for an 801 total, a stunning 51-under-par. Reece Nilsen of Rocky was the medalist, with his first conference win posting three under par rounds of 66-62-69 for a 197 total and a blistering 16-under-par. Riley Lawrence of Providence was also impressive with 13-under-par after 67-64-69 for a 200 total and second place. Nilsen's teammate, Colton Murphy (67-66-68, 201), was third. HoTae Kim of Rocky (67-67-69, 203), Sean Benson of Montana Tech (66-69-68, 203), and Travis Hansen of Lewis-Clark State College (69-66-68, 203) all tied for fourth. Rounding out the low scoring for Rocky and in a tie for seventh were Michael Tait and Mitchell Thiessen at 205. Thiessen closed with the low final round at 64. Joseph Potkonjak at 208 was the low finisher for Carroll College in 10th. MSU-Northern's Jerod Boles at 224 in a tie for 34th was low man for the Lights. Caleb Trost of MSUB was the low Yellowjacket with even-par 213 in a tie for 16th. Click here for full results.

On the women's side, the Battlin' Bears were victorious with a team total of 597 (304-293) and 10 shots clear of second place Lewis-Clark State College. Leading the way for Rocky was medalist Eryn Ellis who shot two-under-par 140 (72-68). Ellis was five shots ahead of teammate Hayden Flohr (74-71, 145). Morgan O'Neil also collected a top-five finish for Rocky with 78-74, 152, and T5 with Alexandra Schmidt of LCSC. MSUB's Shealyn Hafer posted 156 (79-77) for seventh position to lead the Yellowjackets. Montana Tech's Kelsey Parker was tied for 9th and the low Oredigger with 159 (79-80). Casey Babinecz was the low finisher for Providence at 161 (83-78) to tie for 13th and MSU-Northern's Jenna Jensen posted 163 (85-78) for 17th. Cailin Spencer of Carroll College was 18th with 164 (85-79) to lead the Saints. Click here for full results. The Frontier Conference Championships are held at Papago Golf Course in Phoenix, Arizona, next April. Both Rocky Mountain's men's and women's programs have been victorious in all 2018 tournaments to date.
The 2018 Frontier Conference Regular Season came to a conclusion and Rocky Mountain College earned team titles on both the men's and women's divisions.

On the women's side, Rocky's Eryn Ellis as named 2018 Player of the Year. Alexandra Schmidt of Lewis-Clark State College was named Freshman of the Year, and Rocky's Aaron Pohle was named Coach of the Year for the fourth consecutive season.

Eleven players were named All-Conference: First Team: Madilyn Brown, Lewis-Clark State College, Jr., Novato, CA; Marissa Louder, Lewis-Clark State College, Sr., Fillmore, UT; Eryn Ells, Rocky Mountain College, Sr., Casper, WY; Hayden Flohr, Rocky Mountain College, Jr., Billings, MT; Morgan O'Neil, Rocky Mountain College, Jr., Casper, WY; Hayden Flohr, Rocky Mountain College, Jr., Billings, MT; Morgan O’Neil, Rocky Mountain College, Jr., Laurels, MT. Second Team: Lauren Hamm, Lewis-Clark State College, Jr., Ferndale, WA; Alexandra Schmidt, Lewis-Clark State College, Fr., Regina, Saskatchewan; Jenna Jensen, MSU-Northern, Sr., Kalispell, MT; Amanda Conner, Rocky Mountain College, So., Irwin, PA; Anna DeMars, Rocky Mountain College, Jr., Townsend, MT; Kaelyn Volk, Rocky Mountain College, Fr., Sidney, MT.

On the men's side, Lewis-Clark State College's Travis Hansen was named 2018 Player of the Year. LCSC's Carlos Davila was named Freshman of the Year and Aaron Pohle garnered Coach of the Year honors.

The eleven players named All-Conference for men's golf were: First Team: Travis Hansen, Lewis-Clark State College, So., Clarkston, WA; Sean Benson, Montana Tech, Sr., Billings, MT; Colton Murphy, Rocky Mountain College, Sr., Mandan, ND; Reece Nilsen, Rocky Mountain College, So., Tucson, AZ; Michael Tait, Rocky Mountain College, Jr., Littleton, CO. Second Team: Stephen Santora, Carroll College, Sr., Napa, CA; Carlos Davila, Lewis-Clark State College, Fr., Cordoba, Veracruz; HoTae Kim, Rocky Mountain College, Sr., Rydalmere, New South Wales; Mitchell Thiessen, Rocky Mountain College, So., Chilliwack, British Columbia; Jonny Cielak University of Providence, Sr., Libby, MT; Riley Lawrence, University of Providence, So., Helena, MT.

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OCTOBER’S DRAWING:
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$200 cash - Brian Kekich, Missoula

** NOVEMBER’S TRIP PRIZE is to Mesa, AZ - Golf School **

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- ONE handicap record - no linking
- Accessible by anyone in ONE place
- Centralized handicap calculation
- All handicap vendors, same network
- Invisible to golfers, no software or program change

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Just email your information to support@msgagolf.org, and we’ll set you up!
Rhonda Matsko of Great Falls To Compete in Veteran Golfers Association (VGA) National Championship

The Veteran Golfers Association (VGA) will host its National Championship tournament in San Francisco, California, November 4-7 at The Olympic Club, a spectacular course and host site to five previous U.S. Open Championships. The 2018 season-ending event will showcase the determination and accomplishments of players and their families, as wounded veterans and Purple Heart recipients will make up nearly half the field, and competitors range from enlisted personnel to two-star generals, spanning the Korean War through Post 9/11 veterans.

Rhonda Matsko of Great Falls won her division Female Family at the Regional tournament at Rio Secco in Henderson, NV, and qualified for the National Championship. She will be representing the West Region for Female Family.

The field features 90 regional winners competing for a coveted Red Jacket, which is ceremoniously awarded to VGA Champions in four divisions of competition: Veteran, Female Veteran, Combat Wounded, and Family members. For the players, the opportunity to travel for the VGA Championship is an honor in and of itself, as the season encompassed over 250 tournaments for more than 4,000 VGA members nationwide, hosted by military, public, and private courses alike.

“The Olympic Club has a history of staging great competition,” said Olympic Club Director of Golf Will Hutter. “Our members are truly honored to host the VGA Championship and we’ve been looking forward to welcoming these players for quite some time.”

“The VGA’s mission is to enhance the lives of veterans and their family members through the camaraderie and sportsmanship of golf,” said VGA President Joshua Peyton, a retired Army Captain and Army Ranger. “Just to qualify for this year’s championship is a significant accomplishment for the players, who really deserve the spotlight following their service, sacrifice, and patriotism.”

Since being founded in 2014, the VGA has hosted over 1,200 golf tournaments and more than 80,000 rounds of golf nationwide for Veterans and their family members. Earlier this year, the VGA opened its headquarters in the Village of Pinehurst, NC, which serves as the national hub for more than 4,000 VGA members in 44 states across the country.

The organization taps the sport of golf as an alternative therapeutic activity, offering veterans and their families with a productive way to deal with the challenges of combat-related injuries and stress that impact their everyday lives. Membership is open to all U.S. veterans – wounded, non-wounded, disabled, active duty, and retired – as well as to their family members, including parents, siblings, and dependents who are at least 18 years old.

More information is available at www.vgagolf.org.

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Jeremy Lukkes, 10/12/18, Eagle Falls GC, Hole #14, 173 yds, 7 Iron
George Hutchens, 9/26/18, Village Greens GC, Hole #11, 103 yds, 9 Iron
Bonnie Dern, 9/1/18, Village Greens GC, Hole #5, 97 yds, 9 Iron
Brian Priebe, 5/5/18, Bridger Creek GC, Hole #11, 123 yds, 52 Deg Wedge

Have you logged in online? Post scores and view your record from home. Don’t know your login? Contact us at support@msgagolf.org.

Want to see something in the newsletter? Contact Nick Dietzen at: nick@msgagolf.org (406) 459-3459.

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