



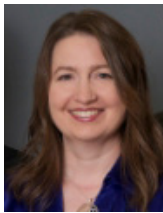
MSGGA Newsletter

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Rules of Golf 2019 - Major Changes (Part 3)






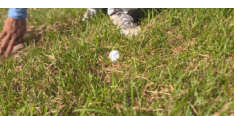

Emily Hulsey, MSGGA Handicap and Website Coordinator



We continue this month with Part 3 of our series, breaking down the next set of Rules of Golf changes. These changes went into effect as of January 1, 2019. If you are a snow-bird, remember to pay attention to the change date. You can review Parts 1 & 2 from our previous issues on our website at www.msggagolf.org/newsletter-archive.



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. A full table of changes will be listed on the MSGGA website at the end of this series.

	<u>RULE</u>	<u>New in 2019:</u>	<u>(Old Rule:)</u>
	Unattended flagstick	No penalty, option to remove	Loss of hole/2-stroke penalty if ball hits flagstick
	Touching sand in bunker	No penalty to move debris or touch sand; except can't touch sand with club around ball, test sand, make practice swing, or in backswing of stroke.	Loss of hole/2-stroke penalty (with exceptions)
	Unplayable ball in bunker	May take relief outside bunker back on the line from the hole, 2 penalty strokes	No relief option (other than from previous stroke)
	Penalty area definition expanded	Red and yellow marked "penalty areas" now cover water, and also desert, jungle, lava rock, thick woods, etc	Committee can only mark an area of water as "water hazard"
	Expanded use of red-marked penalty area	Committees now able to mark all penalty areas as red so that lateral relief always allowed (but can still use yellow when appropriate)	All water hazards marked yellow (with exceptions)
	Touching ground in penalty area	No penalty to move debris, touch ground/water with hand or club	Loss of hole/2-stroke penalty (with exceptions)
	Opposite side relief for red penalty areas	Not allowed, unless Local Rule	Always allowed



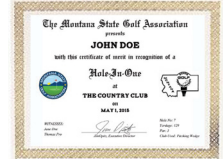
WE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK!

Plans are being made for the 2019 season, and **the future of the MSGA vTour Series is in your hands!** While we've had participation from a couple hundred of you, we need your opinion whether it's worth continuing the program. Would you like to see the vTour return in 2019? If so, are there any changes you would like to see? We'll base our decision off of your responses. Thanks in advance!

CLICK HERE TO VOTE

Congratulations to our newest Ace Club Members!

Did you get a hole-in-one? Go to www.msgagolf.org to see how to get your MSGA Hole-in-One Certificate!



Dick Wesnick, 9/13/18, Exchange City Par 3 GC, Hole #14, 145 yds, 5 Hybrid
Marshall McCartney, 6/23/15, Northern Pines GC, Hole #4, 139 yds, 8 Iron



ONE NETWORK IN 2019

Regardless of handicap vendor, all Associations will be converted to one network before June 1, 2019 **(this date has changed)**.

Here are the benefits:

- ONE network # - multiple states
- 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

DO YOU HAVE A GHIN# or other record outside the MSGA?

If so, we need to link your records, if this hasn't been done already! With the merge to one network in 2019, this needs to be completed soon to eliminate problems and confusion for both you and anyone searching your record.

Just email your information to support@msgagolf.org, and we'll set you up!

Handicapping FAQs

Emily Hulsey, MSGA Handicap and Website

IS THERE A HANDICAP ADJUSTMENT FOR AGE?

Age does not define a player's ability. An adjustment can't be made on the basis of age, because not all golfers are equal. The Handicap Index already takes into consideration the player's best Handicap Differentials, which is based on a math formula, not age or gender.

MY HANDICAP INDEX IS ALREADY ESTABLISHED FROM THE FORWARD TEE AT MY GOLF CLUB. WHY DO I HAVE TO ADJUST IT IF I PLAY A DIFFERENT SET OF TEES?

A Handicap Index isn't established from a particular set of tees. It's based off of your scores and the course rating of the tees you played. It's a portable number that can be taken from tee-to-tee and course-to-course and converted to a Course Handicap for the tees that you are playing that day.

**Have a handicap question?
CLICK HERE for help.**

Montana's Official Golf Season:

April 1 to October 31

Off-season scores played in Montana should not be posted. Scores played where it is in-season are valid and should be posted, via the online handicap system, smartphone app, or membership linking.



Congratulations to our NEWEST WINNERS!

DECEMBER'S DRAWING:

Golf in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho - Justin Arney, Billings
\$200 cash - Cindy Curnow, Billings

**** JANUARY'S TRIP PRIZE is Bigfork, Montana ****



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

NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE



SUBSCRIBE

Want to see something in the newsletter?

Contact Nick Dietzen at:
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