

2019 USGA Major Rule Change of the Week...

Major Rule Change - Elimination of opposite side relief for red penalty areas.

Rule 17.1d will remove the option to take relief on the opposite side of a red penalty area (the new term that will include what is today called a lateral water hazard).

- This means that, when a ball is in a red penalty area, the player will have three options relief (all for a one stroke penalty) rather than four options as today.

USGA "Reasons for Change"

- Opposite side relief is a complicated option that many players are not familiar with and that is seldom used.
- The primary purpose behind this relief was to give an extra relief option for the unusual cases where neither back on the line relief nor lateral relief on the side where the ball entered the water hazard seem viable and the players only realistic option is to take relief under penalty of stroke and distance.

[Click here to Read the Explanation of the prohibition of Rule 17.1d](#)



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!

