

2019 USGA Major Rule Change of the Week...

Major Rule Change - *Unplayable ball in bunker*

Under Rule 19.3b, The player will have an extra option allowing relief outside the bunker using the back on the line procedure, but for a total of two penalty strokes.

USGA "Reasons for Change"

It is not uncommon for a player to need to take unplayable ball relief in a bunker, such as when the ball is very close to the bunker wall or lip.

Playing from a bunker can be very difficult for some players, especially when the bunker has a steep wall.

- *This can present particular problem in stroke play because a player must finish the hole and so cannot simply pick up and move to the next hole after multiple tries to play the ball from the bunker.*
- *Giving those players an option to take relief outside the bunker will allow them to keep playing rather than be disqualified.*

[Click here to watch the video explanation of Rule 19.3b](#)



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!

