2019 USGA Major Rule Change of the Week...

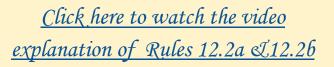
<u>Major Rule Change</u> - Moving or touching loose impediments or touching sand in a bunker

<u>Under Rules 12.2a and 12.2b</u>, 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.





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!

