



## Rule of the Month

January 4, 2019

### Everything Old is New Again

#### 2019 New Definitions

Even though the definitions section of the Rules of Golf has been moved from the front to the back of the Rule book, it doesn't mean the definitions are of any less importance. We've long maintained that a player who understands the definitions is well underway to understanding the Rules, and that is even more true as we enter into a brave new world with the 2019 Rules of Golf.

Many old familiar definitions and phrases no longer exist under the new Rules. Gone are "water hazard", "fellow competitor", "burrowing animal", "casual water", "line of putt", "nearest point of relief", "rub of the green", "through the green" and "outside agency". But even as we had to say goodbye to those old friends, a bunch of new kids arrived on the block and it's time to make new friends.

What better way to start the new year than to become familiar with some of the newcomers? This month's quiz focuses on some new definitions. And yes, we realize we used the word "new" five times in the prior two lines.

Also, after completing this month's quiz, we recommend you take a look at some of the other new definitions that were too long to include in this article such as "Nearest Point of Complete Relief", "Abnormal Course Condition", "Penalty Area" and "Relief Area". If you have not yet done so, do yourself a favor and download the USGA Rules App – it's not only free, but is amazing in its simplicity and search function.

#### Questions: True/False

1. The 2019 definition of "Honour" has basically the same meaning as the prior definition of "Honor".
2. "Improve" is a new definition for 2019 – it means to have one's game improve over time.
3. The definition of "Lie" has been added to the Rule Book because it is something frequently done on the course when it comes to reporting a score taken for a hole.
4. "Club-Length" is a new definition and refers to the length of the longest club in your bag excluding a putter.
5. "General Area" is an estimated place on the course where a ball might be lost.
6. "Natural Forces" covers a wide variety of reasons as to why a ball at rest may have moved, but does not include gravity.
7. "Outside Influence" refers to a player that may have over imbibed on the course and may lead to someone driving under the influence.
8. The definition of "Animal" includes humans.
9. A "Flagstick" is a movable pole provided by the Committee that is placed in the hole to show you where the hole is.
10. "No Play Zone" is a phrase we made up just to see if you are paying attention.

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