

Rule 18 – Notable Changes

- Players now have a one club-length relief area when taking stroke-and-distance relief.
- A ball is lost if not found within three minutes after the player's side or caddie has started to search for it.
- A player may go back and play a provisional ball after going forward to search.
- Announcement of provisional ball may be made to anyone.

Rule 18 – Key Concepts

18.1 Relief Under Penalty of Stroke and Distance Allowed at Any Time

- Stroke and Distance is ALWAYS an option.
- Once ball put into play under stroke and distance, original ball must not be played.

18.2 Ball Lost or Out of Bounds: Stroke-and-Distance Relief Must Be Taken

- When Ball is Lost or Out of Bounds, player must proceed under stroke and distance.

18.3 Provisional Ball

- May be played for a ball that may be lost outside a penalty area or out of bounds.
- Must be announced prior to playing the stroke.
- If original is found on course within three-minutes, the provisional MUST be abandoned.