

Rule 3– Notable Changes

- “Wrong information” replaced by “giving wrong number of strokes taken” and “failing to tell opponent about a penalty”.
- Hole scores are now certified, rather than the scorecard (one word), being signed, to allow for electronic forms of scorecards.
- 2018 Local Rule (eliminating additional wrong score penalty), incorporated into the Rules.
- Time to “request a ruling” on the last hole of a match extended until the “match is final”.
- Time to correct a mistake on the last hole of stroke-play round extended until the scorecard is returned.

Rule 3 – Key Concepts

3.1 Central Elements of Every Competition

- All golf divided into match play or stroke play, each with different specific Rules.

3.2 Match Play

- One side against another, played by holes.
- Players may concede match, hole or next stroke. Concessions are final.
- Player should declare handicaps, too high=DQ, too low=match stands.
- Opponent has right to ask number of strokes taken, must give correct number. Incorrect number not corrected in time=Loss of Hole.
- Must tell opponent about penalty strokes, if not done in time=Loss of Hole.

3.3 Stroke Play

- Played against all others in the competition, all must be treated equally under Rules.
- Player has scorecard responsibilities: check, certify and return.
- Wrong Score too high=stands, wrong score too low=DQ
- Must ensure handicap recorded, too high=DQ, too low=stands.
- Failure to hole out, must correct or DQ