Rule 4.1 – Notable Changes

• No penalty for carrying non-conforming club or club with performance characteristics deliberately changed, penalty only for making stroke.
• A player may repair any damage to a club during a round, or continue to use damaged club – “normal course of play” limitation eliminated.
• Adjustable features changed may be restored without penalty before it used.
• Accidental excess club at first tee may be declared out of play and carried during round. Deliberate excess club must be left behind.
Rule 4.1 – Key Concepts

• Clubs must be conforming. Clubs changed through normal wear are treated as conforming.
• Clubs damaged during round may be repaired or used for rest of the round, regardless of how the damage occurred.
• Damaged clubs may only be replaced if player or caddie is not responsible for the damage.
• Performance characteristics must not be deliberately changed and club used.
• Limited to 14 clubs. Breach is a Match Revision (adjustment), not loss of hole. Two strokes with maximum of four strokes in stroke play.
• Excess clubs must be taken out of play, either by declaration or other clear action.
Rules 4.2 & 4.3 – Notable Changes

• Damaged ball only “cut or cracked” substitution allowed, “out of shape” eliminated.

• Announcement requirement eliminated when lifting to see if ball is cut or cracked.

• Distance-measuring devices, measuring temperature, listening to background music, now permitted (Local Rules can prohibit some things).
Rules 4.2 & 4.3– Key Concepts

4.2 Balls
- Must not make stroke at non-conforming ball or deliberately altered ball (for performance).
- May mark, lift and substitute if ball cut or cracked during hole.
- Stroke made at ball that breaks into pieces does not count, must be replayed.

4.3 Use of Equipment
- Prohibits use of equipment that eliminates challenge or using equipment in an abnormal way.
- First breach is general penalty, second breach is disqualification.
- Distance-measuring devices permitted by Rule.
- Medical devices and tape excepted.