

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.