Rules 9 – Notable Changes

• Known or Virtually Certain Standard for determining:
  – Whether or not Ball Moved
  – What Caused Ball to Move

• Definition of Moved includes the “naked eye” standard.

• If ball already lifted and replaced on putting green, ball is replaced even when natural forces thereafter move ball.

• Player protections from getting a penalty for moving a ball extended to cover “while taking reasonable actions”

• “Directly attributable” limitation eliminated.

• Specific governance of the ball-marker when ball has not yet been replaced.
Rule 9 – Key Concepts

9.1 Ball Played as It Lies
- Ball must be played as it lies, except when the Rules allow you to play from somewhere else.
- If ball starts moving once backswing has begun and stroke is made, play ball from where it comes to rest.

9.2 Deciding What Caused Ball to Move
- Known or Virtually Certain Standard used.
- Only Four Causes recognized:
  - 1) Player (or caddie), 2) Opponent (or caddie), 3) Outside Influence or 4) Natural Forces
- If one of first 3 did not cause, natural forces did.

9.3 Ball Moved by Natural Forces
- No penalty and play from new spot, unless
  - Ball was already lifted/moved and replaced on putting green.
Rule 9—Key Concepts

9.4 Ball Lifted or Moved by Player
• Ball must be replaced (2 exceptions).
• One stroke penalty, unless
  – 1) Allowed to lift, 2) Accidentally before found, 3) Accidentally on putting green, or 4) Accidentally while applying Rule not on putting green.

9.5 Ball Lifted or Moved by Opponent in Match Play
• Ball must be replaced, unless conceding or lifted by request.
• One stroke penalty, unless
  – 1) Allowed to lift, 2) By mistake on putting green, or 3) Numbers 2, 3 and 4 above.

9.6 Ball Lifted or Moved by Outside Influence
• Known or Virtually Certain Standard.
• No penalty, ball must be replaced.
Rule 9 – Key Concepts

9.7 Ball-Marker Lifted or Moved

• Ball or Ball-Marker Must be Replaced, no matter how it is moved.
• One stroke penalty to player or opponent, unless
  – 1) Any one of the exceptions that apply under 9.4 or 9.5 apply.
• Applies only to ball-marker in place for a ball that
  – Has been lifted and
  – Has not yet been replaced.