

Obstructions - Rule 24

An obstruction is anything artificial except objects defining out of bounds, any part of an immovable object that is out of bounds and any construction declared by the Committee to be an integral part of the course.

A movable obstruction may be moved without unreasonable effort, without unduly delaying play and without causing damage to the course. If an obstruction may not be removed without unreasonable effort, would cause undue delay in play and cause damage, it is an immovable obstruction.

The nearest point of relief is the reference point for taking relief, without penalty, from interference by an immovable obstruction. It is a point on the course nearest to where the ball lies, but not nearer the hole and, where, if the ball were so positioned, the immovable obstruction would not interfere with the player's stance or area of intended swing.

When the ball is dropped within one club length of the nearest point of relief, the ball must first strike a part of the course at a spot that avoids interference by the immovable obstruction and is not in a hazard and not on a putting green.