

SEPTEMBER 2008 RULES REMINDER

Submitted by Ginger Babb

USGA Rule 24: Obstructions and how and when to take relief. (See the definition of "Obstruction" in the Definitions section of the Rules of Golf--Section II)

a. **Interference** by an immovable obstruction occurs when a ball lies in or on the obstruction, or when the obstruction interferes with the player's *stance* or the area of his intended swing. (i.e.: cart path, French drains, sprinkler heads, etc.)

b. **Relief**

Except when the ball is in a *water hazard* or a *lateral water hazard*, a player may take relief from interference by an immovable obstruction as follows:

(i) **Through the Green:** If the ball lies *through the green*, the player must lift the ball and drop it *without penalty* within one club-length of and not nearer the hole than *the nearest point of relief*. The *nearest point of relief* must not be in a *hazard* or on a putting green.

(ii) **In a Bunker:** If the ball is in the bunker the player must lift the ball and drop it either:

(a) *Without penalty*, drop it in the bunker; or

(b) *Under penalty of one stroke*, outside the bunker keeping the point where the ball lay directly between the **hole** and the spot on which the ball is dropped, with no limit to how far behind the bunker the ball may be dropped.

The ball may be cleaned when lifted under this rule.

Dropping and Re-Dropping the Ball: When dropping your ball stand erect, hold the ball at shoulder height and arm's length and drop it. It must hit the ground within the one club length indicated in the Rule, but it can roll up to two club lengths, but no closer to the hole.

If the ball touches the player, his partner or their equipment before or after it strikes a part of the course, the ball must be re-dropped, without penalty. There is no limit to the number of times a ball must be re-dropped in these circumstances.

Note: Relief with no penalty is one club length, and relief that incurs a penalty is two club lengths and always no closer to the hole.