

APRIL RULES REMINDER
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Definition of “Nearest Point of Relief”

USGA Rules define **Nearest Point of Relief** as the reference point for taking relief without penalty from interference by an **“immovable obstruction, an “abnormal ground condition” or a “wrong putting green”**.

It is the point on the course nearest to where the ball lies:

1. That is **not nearer the hole**, and
2. Where, if the ball were so positioned, no interference by the condition from which Relief is sought would exist for the stroke the player would have made from the original position if the condition were not there.

An example might be: if you are taking relief from an **immovable obstruction** while the ball is lying through the green, (i.e. not in sand trap, tee box, all hazards or OB) mark where the ball is, take the club you would have selected for the stroke, measure one club length (no nearer the hole) from where the ball is, mark both ends of the club, stand erect, arm fully extended at shoulder high, drop the ball within that club length and if the ball ends up closer to the hole, you drop a second time, if this drop ends closer to the hole you may place the ball within the length of the club but no closer to the hole.