

Immovable Obstructions and Abnormal Ground Conditions (Rules 24-2 and 25-1)

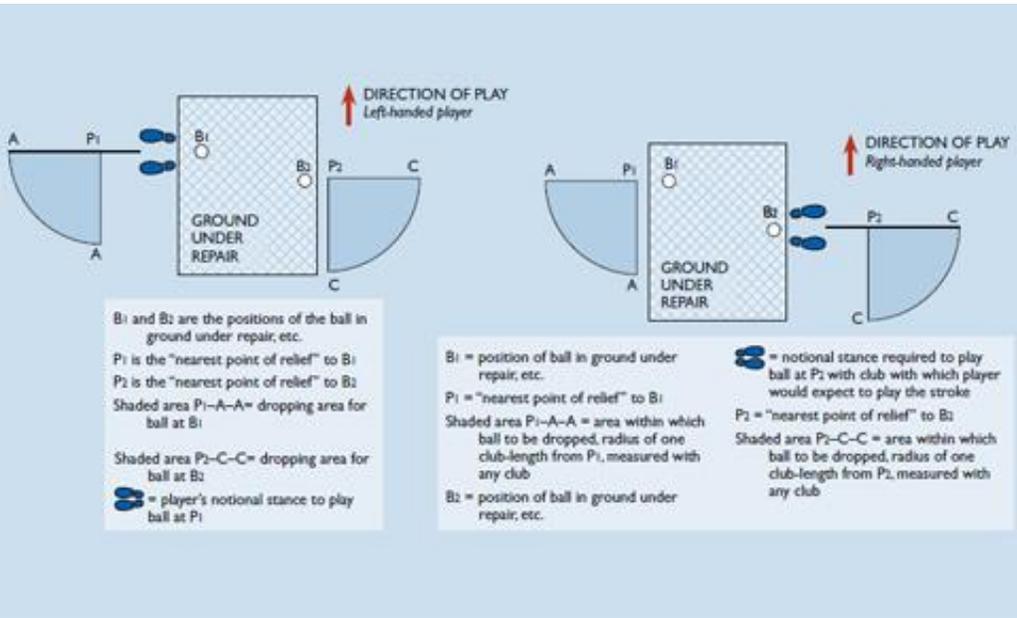
An immovable obstruction is an artificial object on the course that cannot be moved (e.g. a building, sprinkler head, etc.) or cannot readily be moved (e.g. a firmly embedded direction post).

Objects defining out of bounds are not treated as obstructions.

An abnormal ground condition is casual water, ground under repair or a hole or the cast from a hole made by a burrowing animal, a reptile or a bird.

Except when your ball is in a water hazard, relief without penalty is available from immovable obstructions and abnormal ground conditions when the condition physically interferes with the lie of the ball, your stance or your swing.

You may lift the ball and drop it within one club-length of the nearest point of relief (see Definition of “Nearest Point of Relief”



The diagrams illustrate the term “nearest point of relief” in Rule 25-1b(i) in the case of both a right-handed and left-handed player.

The “nearest point of relief” must be strictly interpreted. A player is not permitted to choose on which side of the ground under repair he will drop the ball, unless there are two equidistant “nearest points of relief”. Even if one side of the ground under repair is fairway and the other is bushes, if the “nearest point of relief” is in the bushes then the player, if taking relief, must drop the ball within one club length of that point, even though he may have to drop the ball in a virtually unplayable lie.

The same procedure applies under Rule 24-2b dealing with immovable obstructions.

If the ball is on the putting green, you place it at the nearest point of relief, which may be off the putting green. There is no relief for intervention on your line of play unless both your ball and the condition are on the putting green.

As an additional option when your ball is in a bunker, you may take relief from the condition by dropping the ball outside and behind the bunker under penalty of one stroke.

Q. A player's ball lies 50cm behind a sprinkler head. The sprinkler head does not physically interfere with the player's stance or the area of the intended swing but is in the line of play. Is the player entitled to relief under Rule 24-2b?

A. No

[See also Rule 24-2a **a. Interference**

Interference by an immovable **obstruction** occurs when a ball lies in or on the , or when the **obstruction** interferes with the player's **stance** or the area of his intended swing. If the player's ball lies on the **putting green**, interference also occurs if an immovable **obstruction** on the **putting green** intervenes on his **line of putt**. Otherwise, intervention on the **line of play** is not, of itself, interference under this Rule].