

## YOU MAKE THE CALL

Rule 16—Relief from Abnormal Course Conditions (Including Immovable Obstructions),

Dangerous Animal Condition, Embedded Ball

Rule 17 – Penalty Areas

1. The Committee has defined all bird nests on the course to be no play zones. A player's ball comes to rest near a bird nest and both the ball and the nest lie in a penalty area. The nest interferes with the player's intended swing. The player must take penalty relief under the penalty area Rule.

True or False?

**Answer: False. Rule 17.1e(2)**

**Note: The player can either take free relief and drop a ball in a relief area inside the penalty area or take penalty relief under Rule 17.1d or 17.2 because the player's ball does not lie within the bird nest.**

2. On the putting green, the point of maximum available relief may be based on the line of play where the ball will need to go through the shallowest or shortest stretch of temporary water.

True or False?

**Answer: True. Definition of Point of Maximum Available Relief**

**Note: The Point of Maximum Available Relief may be on the putting green or the general area.**

3. A player's ball lies near a live alligator. Both the player's ball and the alligator are in a penalty area. The player may take free relief within the penalty area or penalty relief outside the penalty area.

True or False?

**Answer: True. Rule 16.2b(2)**

**Note: The player may take additional free relief, if there is still interference by a dangerous animal condition, after taking penalty relief outside the penalty area.**

4. The Committee has erred in not marking an open watercourse crossing a fairway as a penalty area. A player who plays a ball into this watercourse and decides to take relief must use one of the options for a yellow penalty area.

True or False?

**Answer: False. Definition of Penalty Area**

**Note: Any watercourse that the committee failed to mark is treated as a red penalty area.**

5. There is no unplayable ball relief for a ball that is in a penalty area.

True or False?

**Answer: True. Rule 17.3.**

**Note: The player's only relief option is to take penalty relief under Rule 17.1d.**

6. A player's ball lies surrounded by prickly cactus spines. There are a number of wasp-like insects hovering around the cactus, from which the player can claim relief from a dangerous animal condition.

True or False?

**Answer: False. Rule 16.2a.**

**Note: Playing the ball as it lay under the prickly cactus spines would be clearly unreasonable if there were no insects in the vicinity, so relief from a dangerous animal condition is not available in this circumstance.**

7. After playing a stroke from inside a penalty area a player's ball comes to rest inside the same penalty area. For a penalty stroke, they may choose to play again from where they made their last stroke outside of the penalty area.

True or False?

**Answer: True. Rule 17.2a(2).**

**Note: This additional penalty relief option is also available if a ball is played from one penalty area into another penalty area.**

8. In the general area, not in sand, a player drops a ball and it comes to rest in its own pitch-mark and part of the ball is below the level of the ground. Free relief is allowed under the embedded ball Rule.

True or False?

**Answer: False. Rule 16.3a(2)**

**Note: The ball is not embedded if it is below the surface of the ground because: 1) the ball is pushed into the ground by someone stepping on it, 2) the ball is driven straight into the ground without becoming airborne, or 3) the ball was *dropped* in taking relief under a Rule.**

9. Where the edge of a penalty area is defined by a line on the ground, the line itself is in the penalty area.

True or False?

**Answer: True. Definition of Penalty Area.**

**Note: When defined by a painted line on the ground, the edge of the penalty area is the outside edge of the line and the line itself is in the penalty area.**

10. After searching for nearly 3 minutes without finding their ball in a general area close to a penalty area, a player may assume that it must have come to rest in the penalty area and take penalty relief outside that area.

True or False?

**Answer: False. Rule 17.1c.**

**Note: For a ball to be lost in a penalty area it must be known or virtually certain that the ball came to rest in that penalty area, otherwise the player must return to where they last played from to take stroke-and-distance relief, Rule 18.2a(1).**

11. When a player takes relief for a ball that is embedded in a general area they must drop a ball right beside where their ball was embedded.

True or False?

**Answer: False. Rule 16.3b.**

**Note: The area of drop is in the general area within one club-length of where the ball was embedded, not nearer the hole.**

12. A player may drop a ball at a favorable place in a penalty area when taking relief for their ball lying in temporary water in a general area, provided they drop within one club-length of the reference point, not nearer the hole.

True or False?

**Answer: False. Rule 16.1b.**

**Note: When taking relief for a ball in a general area a ball must be dropped in a general area.**

13. A ball is in a penalty area when it touches the outside edge of a stake defining the penalty area.

True or False?

**Answer: True. Rule 2.2c and Rule 17.1a.**

**Note: A ball is in a penalty area when any part of it lies on or touches the ground or anything else (such as any natural or artificial object) inside the edge of the penalty area.**

14. Following animal damage the maintenance staff have covered a small area of a putting green with wire netting. Players may take line of play relief from this whether their ball lies on or off the putting green.

True or False?

**Answer: False. Rule 16.1d.**

**Note: The wire netting is an immovable obstruction, which is an abnormal course condition. A player only gets relief from an abnormal course condition on a putting green if their ball lies on that putting green.**

15. When a player's ball lies in a red penalty area one of the relief options they have for a penalty of one stroke, is to drop a ball outside the penalty area within two club-lengths of and not nearer the hole than a point on the opposite margin of the area equidistant from the hole to the point where the original ball last crossed the margin of the area.

True or False?

**Answer: False. Rule 17.1d(3).**

**Note: A Committee may adopt a Local Rule allowing lateral relief on the opposite side of a red penalty area at an equal distance from the hole.**

16. A no play zone may only be defined within an area designated as a penalty area.

True or False?

**Answer: False. Definition of No Play Zone.**

**Note: A no play zone may also be defined as part of an abnormal course condition**

17. A player may take relief if their ball drops into a hole from which a distance marker stake had recently been removed.

True or False?

**Answer: True. Definition of Ground Under Repair, Rule 2.3 and Rule 16.1a.**

**Note: A hole made by the maintenance staff in setting up the course is ground under repair.**

18. A player's ball lies, on the sand, in a hole made by an animal just below the lip of a bunker. They may take relief by dropping a ball anywhere within one club-length of the nearest point of complete relief, not nearer the hole.

True or False?

**Answer: False. Rule 16.1c.**

**Note: Both the nearest point of complete relief and the relief area must be in the bunker.**

19. A ball comes to rest on an irrigation box located inside a penalty area. The ball is not in a penalty area as it lies above the ground.

True or False?

**Answer: False. Rule 17.1a.**

**Note: The edge of a penalty area extends both up above the ground and down below the ground. There is no relief from an immovable obstruction in a penalty area, Rule 16.1a(2).**

20. When taking relief under the Rules from a rabbit hole in a general area the nearest point of complete relief may be amongst the roots of a large tree.

True or False?

**Answer: True. Definitions of Nearest Point of Complete Relief and Animal Hole.**

**Note: The nearest point of complete relief is the point on the course in a general area nearest to where the ball lies that is not nearer the hole and avoids interference from the condition for which relief is sought (the rabbit hole in this question). If the nearest point of complete relief is in the middle of tree roots the player must estimate the one club-length relief from that point not nearer the hole, within which they must drop a ball.**

21. A player who chooses to take the one stroke penalty relief from a waterlogged bunker may drop a ball on the back-on-the-line relief in a penalty area.

True or False?

**Answer: True. Rule 16.1c(2).**

**Note: If more than one area of the course is located within one club-length of the reference point, the ball must come to rest in the relief area in the same area of the course that the ball first touched when dropped in the relief area.**

22. If a ball is lodged in a tree that overhangs a penalty area the ball is in the penalty area.

True or False?

**Answer: True. Rule 17.1a and Definition of Penalty Area.**

**Note: A ball is in a penalty area when any part of the ball is above the edge or any other part of the penalty area. The edge of a penalty area extends both up above the ground and down below the ground.**

23. A Committee has designated an area of newly planted trees as a no play zone. A player's ball has come to rest in a general area, but in a position where the branches of a tree rooted in the no play zone interferes with the backswing of the stroke they would like to play. They must adjust their stance and swing to avoid contact with the branches of the tree.

True or False?

**Answer: False. Rule 16.1f.**

**Note: When a no play zone interferes with a player's stance or swing for a stroke to be made at a ball in a general area, they must take relief without penalty under Rule 16.1b**

24. It is known or virtually certain that a ball has come to rest in an abnormal course condition, but it cannot be found. If no provisional ball has been played the player must continue under stroke-and-distance relief.

True or False?

**Answer: False. Rule 16.1e.**

**Note: The player may take free relief, using the estimated point where the ball last crossed the edge of the abnormal course condition as the spot of the ball for the purpose of finding the nearest point of complete relief.**