



WGA Golf Rules Series: Abnormal Course Conditions

Obstructions:

A player is entitled to free relief from an obstruction only if the actual obstruction interferes with:

- the ball
- the player's stance
- the player's swing

A player does not get relief from course abnormalities associated with the obstruction.

Example: the ground around a storm drain has been sloped down toward the drain so that the water will be channeled into the drain. A player's ball stops on the steep slope toward the drain but is not touching the drain, and the drain itself doesn't interfere with the player's stand or swing. The player is not entitled to free relief.

Abnormal Ground Conditions:

Abnormal ground conditions include standing water, casual water, ground under repair, cast or runway made by an animal, materials piled for removal. If a player steps on the ground and water is visible, that qualifies as casual water.

A player is entitled to free relief from abnormal ground conditions.

First find the nearest point of relief no closer to the hole (generally the closest place where the abnormal condition ceases to exist). The player drops within 1 club length of that point.

Embedded Ball:

Embedded ball—part of the ball is below the level of the ground. (Technical rules of golf say only in a closely mown area, but River Creek local rule is anywhere through the green)

A player is entitled to free relief by dropping as close to the spot where the ball embedded as possible.