

Definition

Nearest Point of Relief

The “*nearest point of relief*” is the reference point for taking relief without penalty from interference by an immovable obstruction (Rule 24-2), an *abnormal ground condition* (Rule 25-1) or a *wrong putting green* (Rule 25-3).

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

- (i) That is not nearer the *hole*, and
- (ii) 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.

Note: In order to determine the *nearest point of relief* accurately, the player should use the club with which he would have made his next *stroke* if the condition were not there to simulate the address position, direction of play and swing for such a *stroke*.

Ladies,

The definition above is verbatim from the Rule book. Also, FYI, italicized words are terms that are defined in your Rules of Golf book.

It is also good to know that once you have determined your NPR accurately, be clear that IT is your reference point as to whether or not the ball is closer to the hole when dropped. The previous location of the ball no longer matters. Once you have determined your NPR there is no need to mark the location of the ball, though there is no penalty or anything if you do.

Be clear that your NEAREST point of relief is not always your NICEST. Sometimes the nearest point, no closer to the hole, may be in the middle of a bush, or into long grass or blackberry briars. You may choose not to take relief. THIS is why it is important for you to NOT TOUCH YOUR BALL before you know the exact location of your NPR. Yes, you could decide not to take relief (Play it as it lies is always option 1), but if you have picked your ball up, you would need to replace it AND there will be a 1 stroke penalty for touching your ball in play.

Lots of good info in the Definition section of the Rule book.

Cathy Kay
RLGA Rules Chair