

April, 2019

## TAKING RELIEF THE NEW WAY

While a bit complicated the new way of taking relief can, at times, be very helpful to the golfer and establishes a more consistent procedure for taking relief.

In order to take relief in the general area, first a Reference Point (RP) must be established. This point will vary according to the rules governing the specific situation for which relief is being taken.

From the RP a player should use the longest club in her bag, excluding her putter, to establish the Relief Area (RA) perimeter. The entire area of the RA within that club-length (lengths) of the RP must be no closer to the hole.

Depending upon circumstances, the RA may be an area to both sides or just one side of the RP as well as an area behind the RP. This RA may result in a semicircle, a quarter circle, or a part (slice) of a semicircle of area. The exact shape of the RA depends upon exact relief situation.

This gives the player a fair size area in which to drop her ball. Before dropping her ball, a player should carefully look at the entire relief area and decide what part of that area would a “good” drop give her the most advantage, example: level lie, line of sight, depth of grass, etc. A player is entitled to drop her ball anywhere she chooses within the established RA. Any loose impediments may be removed from the RA before and after dropping the ball.

The ball must be dropped and come to rest within the RA. Only if the ball comes to rest outside of the RA may the ball re-dropped. Just because the ball rolls away from the spot where it first touched the ground it does not mean it needs to be re-dropped. If a ball is properly dropped within the RA and is picked up and redropped a penalty is incurred. A ball may roll to any spot within the RA and will not be closer to the hole. Review Rule 14c.

Remember, once the ball has been dropped and comes to rest within the RA it is **in play**. No do-overs or adjustments are permitted.