

**FAQ 6:**

***Do I get relief if my ball is touching the wall of the drainage ditch in front of the 17th green?***

**Applicable Rule(s): Local Rule 2 (Penalty Areas)**

Penalty areas are defined by red or yellow stakes or lines. The extents of concrete penalty areas are defined by the walls/concrete, the extent of all other penalty areas are defined by the line of stakes.

**Definition ([Immovable] Obstructions)**

The relevant part the definition is:

Any artificial object except for integral objects and boundary objects.

Examples of obstructions:

Stakes, **walls**, railings and fences (but not when they are boundary objects that define or show the boundary edge of the course),

**Answer:**

**No.**

The wall is part of the hazard and since the ball is touching the hazard it is by definition in the hazard and as such you do not get relief from any immovable obstructions.

If however your ball was not touching the wall and not in the penalty area and the wall would physically interfere with your stance or your swing then you can obtain relief without penalty. You should drop the ball following the procedure described in FAQ 3.

Also, note the wording in point c) of Local Rule 2. The stakes for this type of penalty area are not part of the penalty area itself, they are only there to tell you whether the hazard is a water hazard (yellow) or a lateral water hazard (red). So if your ball comes to rest behind the stakes but is not touching the wall or in the ditch then it is not in the penalty area and so it is highly likely that you will be able to claim relief without penalty.

One other point about the stakes – the stakes are movable obstructions (Local Rule 6) so they may be removed to play a shot from within the hazard, e.g. if your ball is on top of the wall and you elect to play it from there.