

Nearest Point of Relief

Nearest Point of Relief (NPR) is the reference point for taking relief without penalty from interference by an *immoveable obstruction* (Rule 24-2), an *abnormal ground condition* (Rule 25-1) or *wrong putting green* (Rule 25-3).

It is the point on the ground 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: To determine the NPR accurately, the player should use the club with which she would have made her next stroke if the condition were not there to simulate the address position, direction of play and swing for such a stroke.

Points to Remember

NPR is not necessarily the nearest point in the fairway.

NPR is not used in taking relief from water hazards or from unplayable lies.

NPR may be in the middle of a tree!

NPR may be on cart path when taking relief from casual water or vice versa.

Dropping the Ball Once NPR is Determined (R. 20-2)

In the fairway or in the rough, the ball is to be dropped by the player within one club length of the NPR. (Suggest you use the longest club in your bag to measure for the largest dropping zone.)

- The ball must be dropped from shoulder height.
- The ball must not touch any person or the equipment of any player before or after it comes to rest. If it does, you must re-drop. There is no limit to the number of re-drops in these circumstances.
- The ball must strike a part of the course where the applicable rule requires it to be dropped. If it does not, re-drop until you successfully drop it in the correct area.

- Once correctly dropped, the ball must not roll and come to rest OB, roll into and come to rest a hazard, roll from and come to rest outside a hazard, roll onto and come to rest on a putting green, or more than 2 club lengths from where it first struck the course.
- The ball must not roll into and come to rest where there is interference by the condition from which relief was taken.
- The ball must not roll nearer the hole than its original position, its NPR, or maximum available relief.

If the ball rolls into any of the above positions, it is to be re-dropped.

If the ball when re-dropped, rolls into any of the above positions, it is to be placed at the spot where it first struck the course, when re-dropped.

The Good News

About 90% of the time your 1st drop will be good.

If you drop in the wrong place or in an incorrect manner, you may re-drop without penalty, provided you haven't made a stroke at the ball (Rule 20-6).

(Stephanie Trenck, preparer; Vera Whitlow, reviewer; 3-18-08)