

WHERE DO WE STAND UNDER THE RULES OF GOLF?

In some situations you may be unsure of where you may or may not stand, in bounds, out of bounds, in the teeing area, on a cart path, let's go over some of these tricky situations to understand "stand" what you may and may not do.

1. Your golf ball lands on the edge of an out of bounds area which is bordered with white stakes and high grass. You see that only part of your ball is out of bounds so under Rule 18.2a, your ball is "In Bounds". However, with the white OB stake being so close to your ball it is hard for you to make a stroke on your ball. Do you have to take a penalty stroke and use the Unplayable ball Rule so you can move your ball and make your next stroke? What to do, where do you stand?

Answer: You are allowed to stand "out of bounds" to make a stroke on a ball that is "in bounds". You cannot remove the white OB stake but if you can stand in the tall grass and make a stroke at your ball, you may, no penalty incurred, Rule 18.2a (2).

2. You are about to tee off and, because there are some huge trees lining the fairway, you want to tee up as far to the left as possible. You know you are not allowed to tee your ball outside the teeing area so..... what to do, where do you stand?

Answer: You may stand outside the teeing area to play a ball inside the teeing area if it suits your shot shape or how you envisage playing the hole but make sure your ball is inside the teeing area. Rule 6.1b, 6.2b.

3. Cart paths.

- A) Your ball is on the cart path, can you stand on the path to make your stroke?
- B) Your ball is on the edge of the fairway close to the cart path. Can you stand on the path to make your stroke?
- C) Your ball is on the edge of the fairway close to the cart path. You decide to use Rule 16.1a and take your nearest point complete relief, and drop your ball away from the path on the fairway.

Can you stand on the cart path to make your stroke?

Answers:

- A) Yes
- B) Yes
- C) NO no no no no. If you decide to take relief from the cart path it must be complete relief, no feet on the path! (see Diagram 16.1a page 134 of Players Edition of the Rules of Golf)

4. Your ball lands in a penalty area, a large muddy lake, and you decide to hit your ball from where it lies in the water to avoid a penalty stroke. Are you allowed to stand in the penalty area (water)?

Answer: Yes, under Rule 17.1b you may, but be sure not to improve your stance by excessively digging your feet into the mud or the ground beneath your feet to gain firmer ground for your stance. Improving your stance would incur a two stroke penalty, Rule 8.1.

5. Your ball goes into a penalty area so you decide to use the designated “drop zone” for your next shot. When you drop the ball do you stand inside or outside the drop zone?

Answer: You may stand either inside or outside the drop zone to make your drop. The dropped ball must first strike a part of the course within the drop zone and come to rest in the drop zone. Your ball is allowed to come to rest on the line outlining the drop area as it is considered to be within the dropping area, Local Rule 8E-1, Rule 14.3.

I hope this helps you.

Hilary