

RULES OF GOLF EXPLAINED

# TRAINER'S GUIDE

MOVABLE OBSTRUCTION



## Introduction to the Rules of Golf Explained Video Series

Rules of Golf Explained is a collection of 12 short videos offering simple, straight-forward explanations of how to play by the Rules and what your choices are when applying the Rules in situations that happen while playing. The explanations should be familiar but each will probably contain a thing (or things) not previously known or realized by many golfers who view them.

The following information is provided to help you conduct a presentation approximately 20 minutes in length to a small group of golfers using any of the 12 Rules of Golf Explained videos as the center piece. Each presentation is divided into four parts:

- 1) **TEASER QUESTION** (1 to 2 minutes): Each video begins by showing an incident and asking a Rules question about it. Ask participants to consider the question and write down or remember their answer before continuing to view the video. This question will be reviewed and participants will have the opportunity to find out the correct answer at the end of the video. This teaser question is designed to focus the attention of participants on the topic covered in the video.
- 2) **VIDEO** (3 to 5 minutes depending on the video)
- 3) **TEASER QUESTION REVIEW AND ANSWER** (2 to 4 minutes): Most participants, after watching the video, should be clear on the correct answer to this question (even if they were not entirely sure prior to viewing the video). As the presenter, you will have the option to click the button for either the correct or incorrect answer.
  - a. If the correct answer is selected, a message communicating the answer is correct will appear.
  - b. If the incorrect answer button is selected, a message stating that the answer is incorrect will appear.

Regardless of which answer is selected, three buttons will appear.

- a. **<Back to Question>** allows the opportunity to review the question.
- b. **<Review>** will replay the portion of video that provides the answer to the question.
- c. **<Continue>** will advance to the next question without reviewing the answer to the question.

Notes are provided in the next section of this Trainer's Guide for this and the other three questions to help you as the presentation leader clear up any confusion participants might have with incorrect answers.

- 4) **THREE FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS** (5 to 8 minutes): The three additional follow-up questions are meant to reinforce other important points made in the video. As the presenter, you will once again have the opportunity to click the buttons for the correct or incorrect answers. As outlined above with the first question, you will always have the option to:
  - a. Review the question.
  - b. Replay the relevant part of the video.
  - c. Continue to the next question or the end of the video.

A note of caution: These videos are not comprehensive explanations of the Rules covered, but broad overviews meant to cover fundamental and commonly encountered aspects of each Rule presented. If questions come up that are not answered by the video, we recommend they be handled individually after the formal presentation session. If you know the answer and are comfortable answering, please do. If you are not, the USGA can be contacted at (908) 326-1850 or by email at [Rules@usga.org](mailto:Rules@usga.org).

## **Rules of Golf Explained – Movable Obstructions**

This segment focuses on Movable Obstructions. Most artificial objects are classified by the Rules as “obstructions.” Movable “obstructions” include items such as bunker rakes, plastic bottles, and tees. These artificial objects are not meant to interfere with the playing of the game.

Two of the basic principles of the game of golf are **1) you play the course as you find it** and **2) you play your ball as it lies**. However, the Rules of Golf make an exception to these principles by allowing free relief from movable obstructions that interfere with your play.

The video describes what movable obstructions are and how to take relief without penalty from them.

### **The primary messages of this segment are:**

- ARTIFICIAL OBJECTS are considered obstructions. They are considered to be MOVABLE if they can be moved without much effort, without delaying play, and without causing damage to the course.
- Movable obstructions may be moved no matter where they are. If your ball moves as a result, there is no penalty and the ball must be replaced.
- If your ball lies in or on a movable obstruction, lift the ball, move the obstruction and drop it as close as possible to the spot directly under where it was in or on the obstruction.

### **The secondary messages of this segment are:**

- Artificial objects used to define out of bounds are not obstructions. You do not get relief from them without penalty.
- Movable obstructions may be moved even if they do not physically interfere with your play.

## Teaser Question (Question 1)

**Q1.**When Angel Cabrera takes his ball out of the trash can, is he entitled to free relief or is there a penalty stroke?

☐ **Free Relief** (correct answer)

☐ Penalty Stroke

Question answered correctly: If the correct answer is chosen, "That's correct!"

Question answered incorrectly: If the incorrect answer is chosen, "Sorry, that's not correct."

Choose between the three options:

- **<Back to Question>** allows the opportunity to correctly answer the question, or
- **<Review>** to replay that portion of the video which answers this question, or
- **<Continue>** to go to Question 2.

## Three Follow-up Questions (Questions 2, 3 and 4)

**Q2.**Which of the following do the Rules of Golf consider movable obstructions?

☐ **Bottle** (correct answer)

☐ Pine cone (incorrect, pine cones are not artificial and therefore not obstructions)

☐ **Bunker rake** (correct answer)

☐ **Water hazard stake** (correct answer)

☐ Out of bounds stake (incorrect, objects used to mark out of bounds are not obstructions)

Question answered correctly: If all three correct answers are chosen, "That's correct!"

If only one or two of the three correct answers are chosen: "Your choice is correct! However, there are three movable obstructions among the five choices."

If either or both incorrect answer is chosen: "Sorry, that's not correct."

Choose between the three options:

- **<Back to Question>** allows the opportunity to correctly answer the question, or
- **<Review>** to replay that portion of the video which answers this question, or
- **<Continue>** to go to Question 3

**Q3.** If the ball moves when taking an obstruction out of your way, there is no penalty and you:

- ☐ **Replace the ball** (correct answer)
- ☐ Play the ball where it rolls to

Question answered correctly: "That's correct!"

Question answered incorrectly: "Sorry, that's not correct."

Choose between the three options:

- **<Back to Question>** allows the opportunity to correctly answer the question, or
- **<Review>** to replay that portion of the video which answers this question, or
- **<Continue>** to go to Question 4

**Q4.** Angel Cabrera's correct procedure for relief is to move the trash can and:

- ☐ **Drop the ball under the spot where it was.** (correct answer)
- ☐ Drop the ball within one club-length of where it was.

Question answered correctly: "That's correct!"

Question answered incorrectly: "Sorry, that's not correct."

Choose between the three options:

- **<Back to Question>** allows the opportunity to correctly answer the question, or
- **<Review>** to replay that portion of the video which answers this question, or
- **<Continue>** to go to the conclusion of the video.

## **Resources:**

### **Video Script:**

#### **► – VIDEO CLIP WITH INTRODUCTORY QUESTION**

#### **PART 1 – INTRODUCTION**

Two fundamental principles underlie the Rules of Golf, they are you **PLAY THE COURSE AS YOU FIND IT** and you **PLAY YOUR BALL AS IT LIES**. The Rules, however, make an exception to these principles by providing relief without penalty when an **OBSTRUCTION** which is **MOVABLE** interferes with your play.

#### **PART 2 – DEFINITION**

**OBSTRUCTIONS** are **ARTIFICIAL OBJECTS**. Whether present for a good reason or due to neglect, they are not meant to interfere with your playing of the game.

An **OBSTRUCTION** is considered **MOVABLE** if, like this rake, it can be moved without a lot of effort, delaying play or causing damage. Likewise with this 150 yard marker because it can be moved quickly and without damage, even though it takes some effort.

#### **PART 3 – RELIEF**

A **MOVABLE** obstruction (no matter where it is), such as this tee bothering this player's stance, may be moved out of the way without penalty.

**MOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS** can even be moved if they don't physically interfere with your lie, stance, swing or line of play, as this player is doing with this pencil that's catching her eye while she addresses her ball.

In most cases, relief from a **MOVABLE** obstruction is simple; just move the obstruction and play your ball as it lies.

Occasionally, however, when you move an obstruction your ball will move as a result. If it does, there is **NO PENALTY** as long as you replace it. (You're not required to mark your ball before moving a movable obstruction, but it's a good practice to follow so you'll know where to replace it if it does.)

In the infrequent case that your ball is entirely on or in a movable obstruction without touching the golf course, like this ball on top of a rake, lift your ball, move the obstruction out of the way, and drop it as near as possible to the spot directly underneath where it

#### **PART 4 – EXCEPTION**

Not all **ARTIFICIAL OBJECTS** that can be moved are **OBSTRUCTIONS**. White stakes used to mark **OUT OF BOUNDS** are **NOT** considered obstructions. The Rules consider them fixed and there is a penalty if you move one because it interferes with your play. You'll either have to adapt your swing to play your ball as it lies or take relief under penalty.

## **PART 5 – QUESTIONS**

For more information on Movable Obstructions refer to the Definition of Obstructions on page 30 of the Rules of Golf and to Rule 24-1 (Movable Obstruction) on page 90.

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The USGA and the R&A jointly govern the game worldwide, administering the Rules of Golf, Rules of Amateur Status, Equipment Standards and World Amateur Golf Rankings.