

Welcome!

2008 Rules of Golf Update



Rules of Golf Seminar

- New for 2008
- Etiquette – Can penalize pg 4
- Definitions – Must know first
- Most Common Situations
- Zama Peculiaris
- Local Rules
- What ifs?

Rules of Golf Seminar

- New for 2008
 - Able to identify a ball in a hazard (Rules 12-2 and 15-3) pg 44 and 50
 - Reduction in penalty for carrying, but not using, a non-conforming club (Rule 4-1) from disqualification to two strokes per hole (max 4 strokes – stroke play). Must declare club out of play when infraction discovered or DQ. Pg 24

Rules of Golf Seminar

- New for 2008
 - Rule 19-2 amended to a one-stroke penalty in both match and stroke play. Previously a ball accidentally deflected by a player, his partner or either of their caddies or equipment results in a two-stroke penalty (stroke play) or loss of hole (match play). (ball played where it lies) pg 59
 - The term “reasonable evidence” has been replaced by the term – “known or virtually certain.”

Rules of Golf Seminar

- New for 2008
 - Rule 24-1 has been amended to allow a flagstick, whether attended, removed or held up to be moved when a ball is in motion even if the act could influence the movement of the ball. pg 71
 - Rule 13-2 amended to permit removal of dew, frost or water from the teeing ground. Pg 46

Rules of Golf Seminar

- New for 2008
 - An exception has been added to Rule 16-1e (standing astride or on line of putt) to clarify that a player incurs no penalty if his stance taken astride or on his line of putt or an extension of it behind the ball was taken to avoid standing on another player's line of putt or was taken inadvertently. Pg 53



Rules of Golf Seminar

- New for 2008
 - Rule 20-3a has been amended to reduce the penalty, to one stroke, when the wrong person places or replaces a ball. Previously it was two strokes (stroke play) or loss of hole (match) pg 63
 - Three definitions have been clarified.
 - Advice – amended to allow the exchange of information on distance
 - Lost Ball – amended to clarify substituted ball issues and to include the concept of stroke and distance.

Rules of Golf Seminar

- New for 2008
 - Matches – Definition withdrawn and replaced by two new Definitions – “Forms of Match Play” and “Forms of Stroke Play.”
 - A change to rules of amateur status 3-2a allows a player to receive cash for a hole-in-one made while playing golf without losing their amateur status. pg 143 (may exceed \$750 normal limit)

Key Definitions

- Ground under repair
- Loose impediments
- Line of putt
- Stroke
- Teeing ground
- Through the green
- Obstructions

Key Definitions

- Ground under repair
 - “any part of the *course* so marked by the *committee* or so declared by its authorized representative. It includes material piled for removal and a hole made by a greenkeeper, even if not so marked. All ground and any grass, bush, tree or other growing thing within the ground under repair is part of the ground under repair. The margin of ground under repair extends vertically downward but not upward. Stakes and lines defining GUR are in such ground. Such stakes are *obstructions*. A ball is in GUR when it lies in or any part of it touches the GUR.”



Piled – but not for removal – (loose impediment) not GUR

Relief or not? Ball is not in GUR



Relief - GUR applies for ball and stance. (Rule 25 – *Abnormal Ground Conditions* – include GUR, casual water or hole, cast or runway made by a burrowing animal, reptile or bird)



Do you have to take relief if you don't want to?



No – But if you do you must take complete relief (ball and stance).



Is the ball in GUR or not?



YES! The line is part of GUR so if the ball touches the line it is in the GUR.



Key Definitions

- Loose Impediment
 - “are natural objects such as stones, leaves, twigs, branches and the like, dung, worms, and insects and casts or heaps made by them, provided they are not fixed or growing, are not solidly embedded and do not adhere to the ball. Sand and loose soil are loose impediments on the putting green but not elsewhere.”

Key Definitions

- Line of Putt
 - “is the line which the player wishes his ball to take a *stroke* on the *putting green*. Except with respect to rule 16-1e, the *line of putt* includes a reasonable distance on either side of the intended line. The line of putt does not extend beyond the hole.”

Key Definitions

- Stroke
 - “is the forward movement of the club with the intention of fairly striking at and moving the ball, but if a player checks his downswing voluntarily before the clubhead reaches the ball he is deemed not to have made a *stroke*.”

Key Definitions

- Teeing Ground
 - “is the starting place for the hole to be played. It is a rectangular area two club lengths in depth the front and sides of which are defined by the outside limits of two tee markers. A ball is outside the teeing ground when all of it lies outside the *teeing ground*.”
 - Stroke Play Violation – 2 strokes (Must replay the stroke)
 - Match play – no penalty – may require stroke to be replayed

What If's

- Q. What if you don't have 2 club lengths behind the tee marker?
- A. Not covered in the rules of golf. Decision 13-2/14 penalizes the player for breaking a branch in his backswing on the teeing ground before making the stroke (2 strokes). Course setup issue only.

Key Definitions

- Through the Green
 - “the whole area of the golf course except:
 - The *teeing ground* and *putting green* of the hole being played; and
 - All hazards on the course.”
- It is NOT (as TV announcers would have you believe) OVER the green.

Key Definitions

- Obstructions
 - “anything artificial, including the artificial surfaces and sides of roads and paths and manufactured ice, except:
 - Objects defining out of bounds, such as walls, fences, stakes and railings
 - Any part of a movable artificial object which is out of bounds; and
 - Any construction declared by the committee to be an integral part of the course.”

Key Definitions

- Obstructions (continued)
 - An obstruction is a movable obstruction if it may be moved without unreasonable effort, without unduly delaying play and without causing damage. Otherwise it is an immovable obstruction.

What If's

Q. What is the proper method for taking relief on hole #1 when your ball is between the net and cart path?

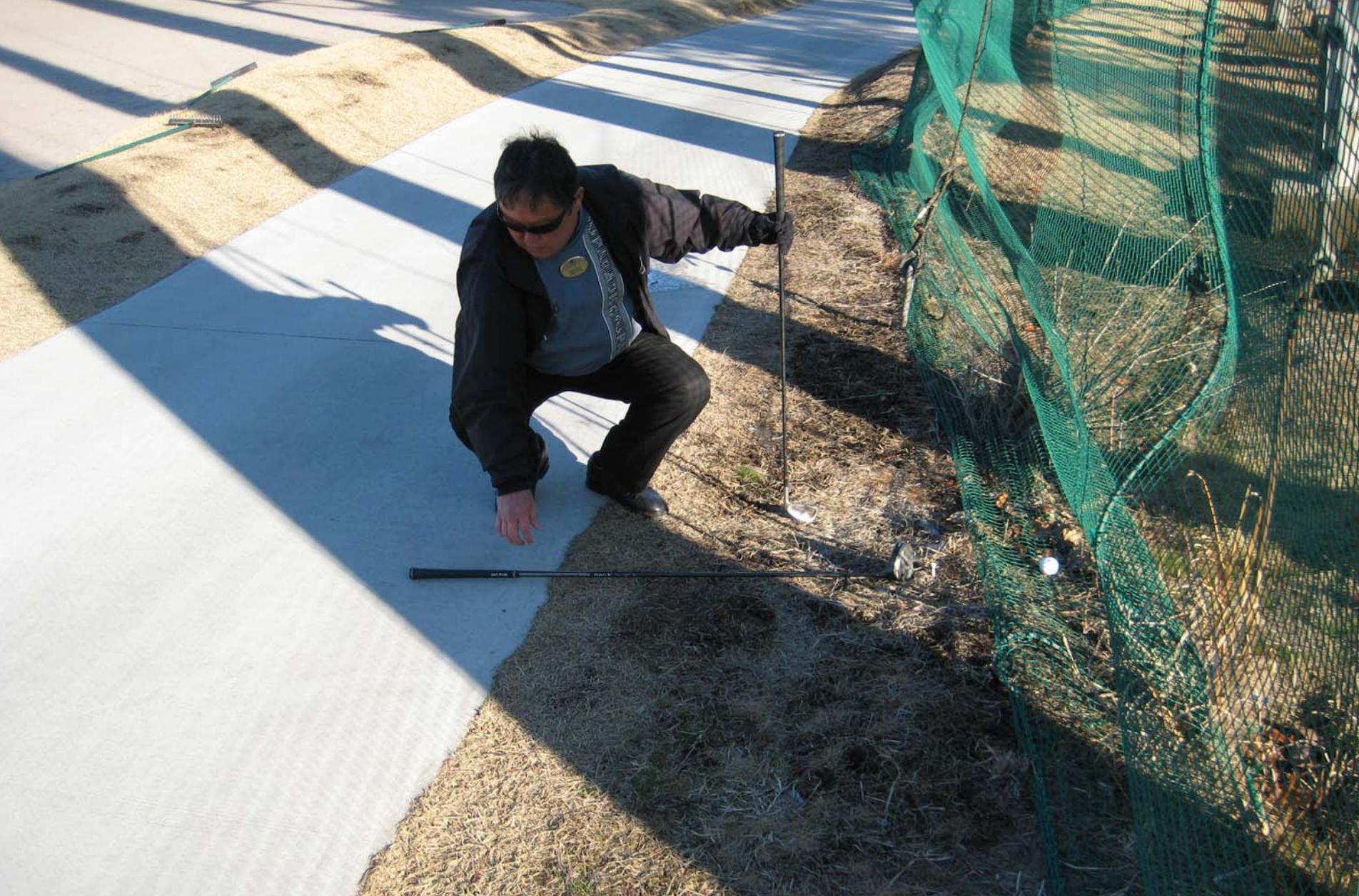
A. Rule 24-2 – Immovable Obstruction - Relief from stance, swing and lie of ball only. Nearest point or relief using club for next shot plus 1 club length not in a hazard or on a putting green.
Decision 24-2b/9 Relief from each obstruction separately. (see photo)



Net is immovable obstruction



Determine nearest point of relief. (Stance and swing only)
Not line of sight. Must use club you intend to play.



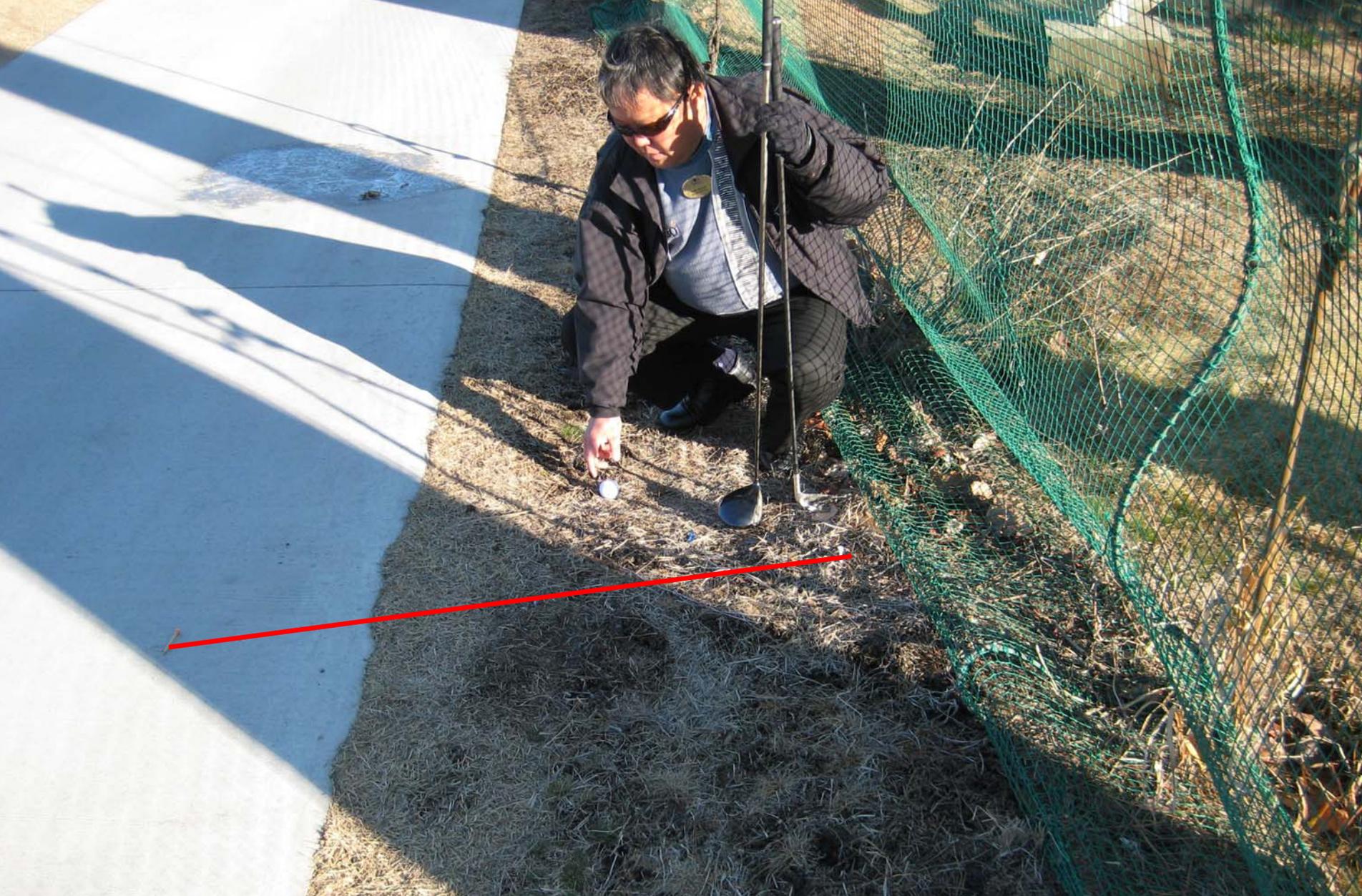
Measure one club length for relief. Not nearer the hole.
Can use any club to measure



One club length is on cart path – another obstruction



Drop ball at arms length and shoulder height inside the measured one club length. In play if(may clean ball)



Ball redropped - rolled closer to the hole.



Ball is in play



Now we can take relief from the cart path using same procedure as for relief from net (or could play it from here if desired)



Mark ball



Determine nearest point of relief – not in a hazard or on a putting green



Measure one club length

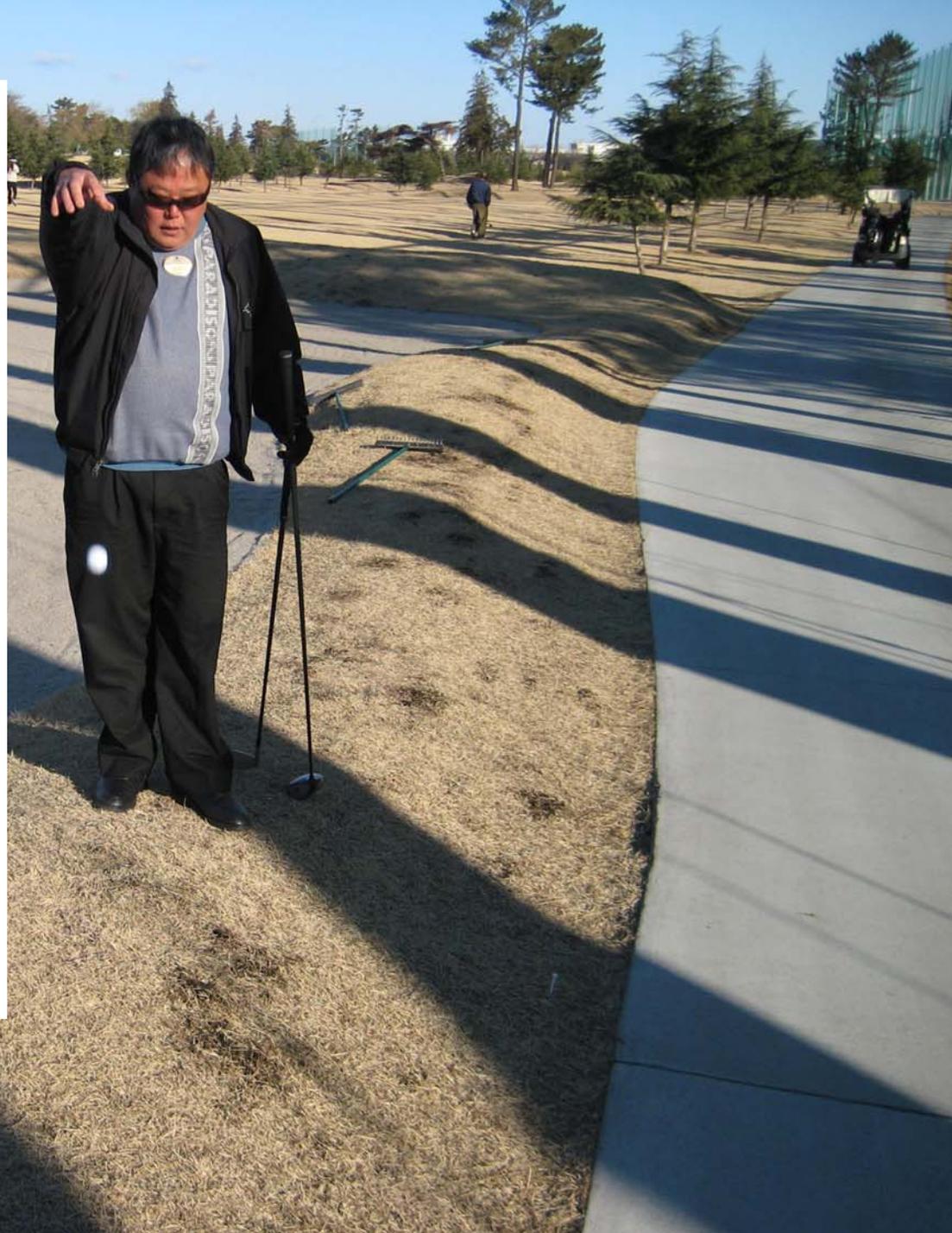


Drop ball at arms length and shoulder height inside the measured one club length. In play if

7 situations where a ball must be redropped: if:

1. Rolls into a hazard
2. Rolls out of a hazard
3. Rolls onto a putting green
4. Rolls out of bounds
5. Back into situation from where relief was taken (except unplayable)
6. More than 2 club-lengths
7. Nearer the hole

(drop twice then place where it last struck the course)





Play away



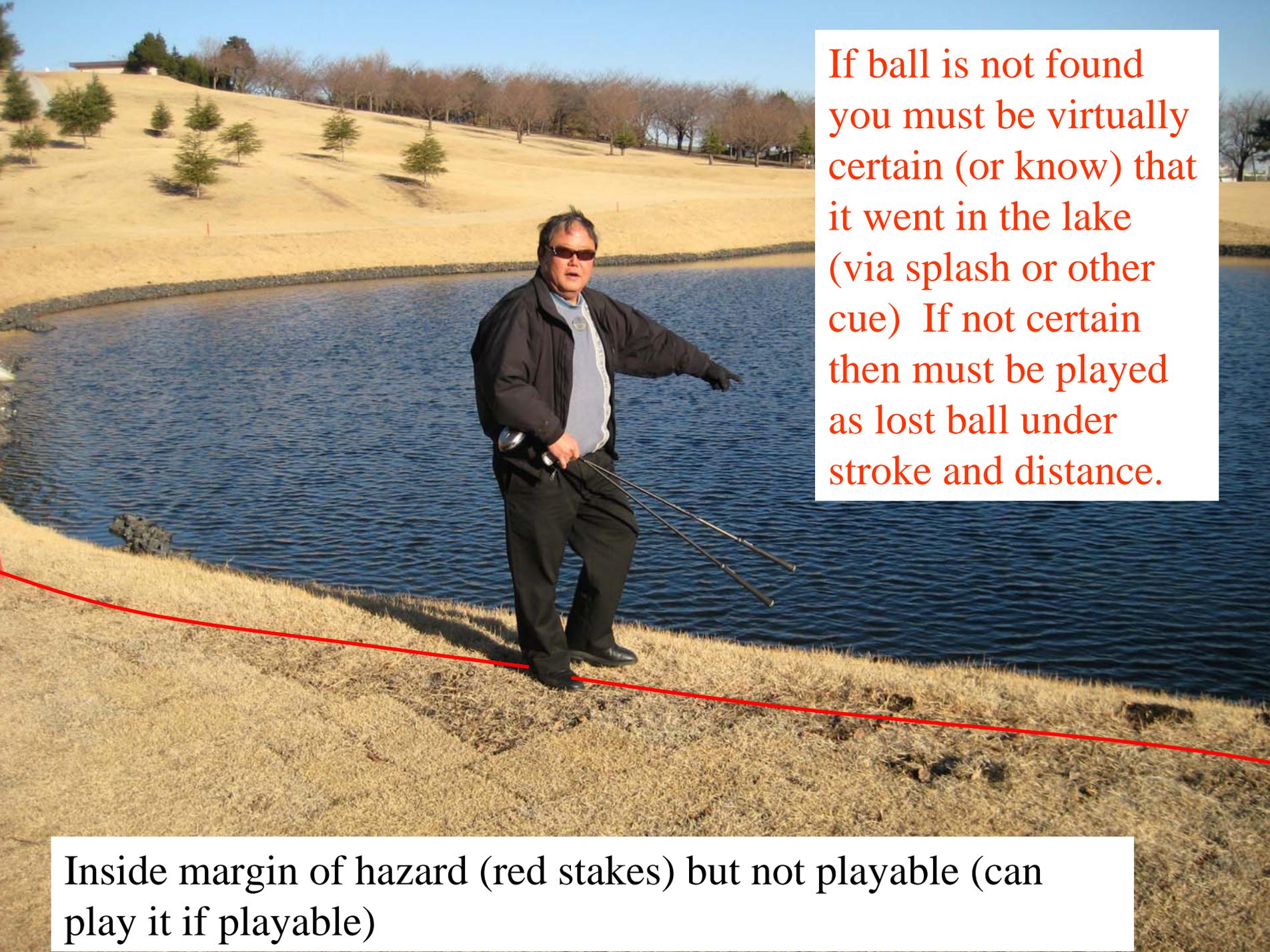
One step relief if net not involved – cart path relief only



Regular water hazard – one stroke penalty – no relief from obstruction in hazard (can play if desired)



Ball hit to the right on #4 – where did it go?

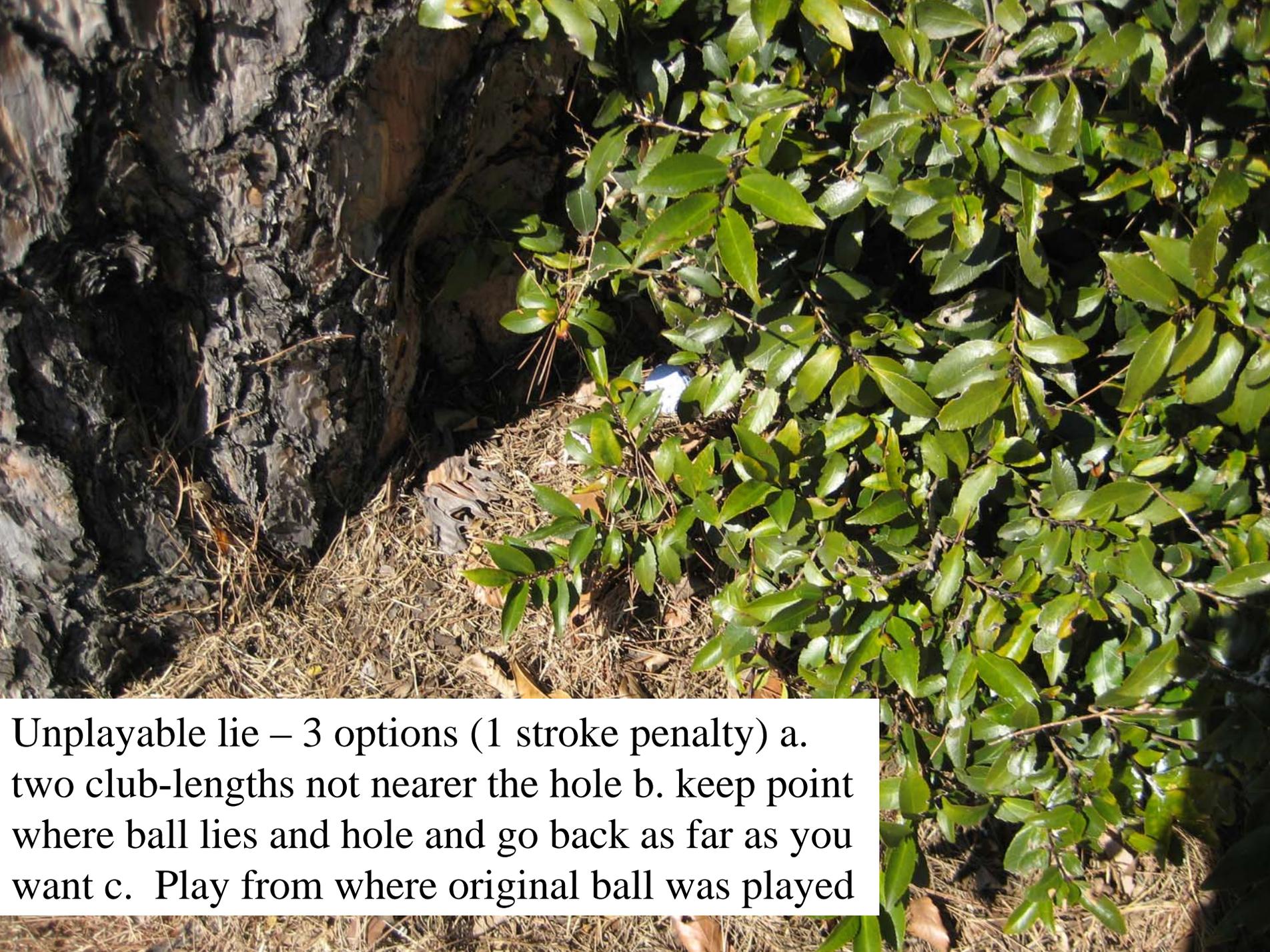


If ball is not found
you must be virtually
certain (or know) that
it went in the lake
(via splash or other
cue) If not certain
then must be played
as lost ball under
stroke and distance.

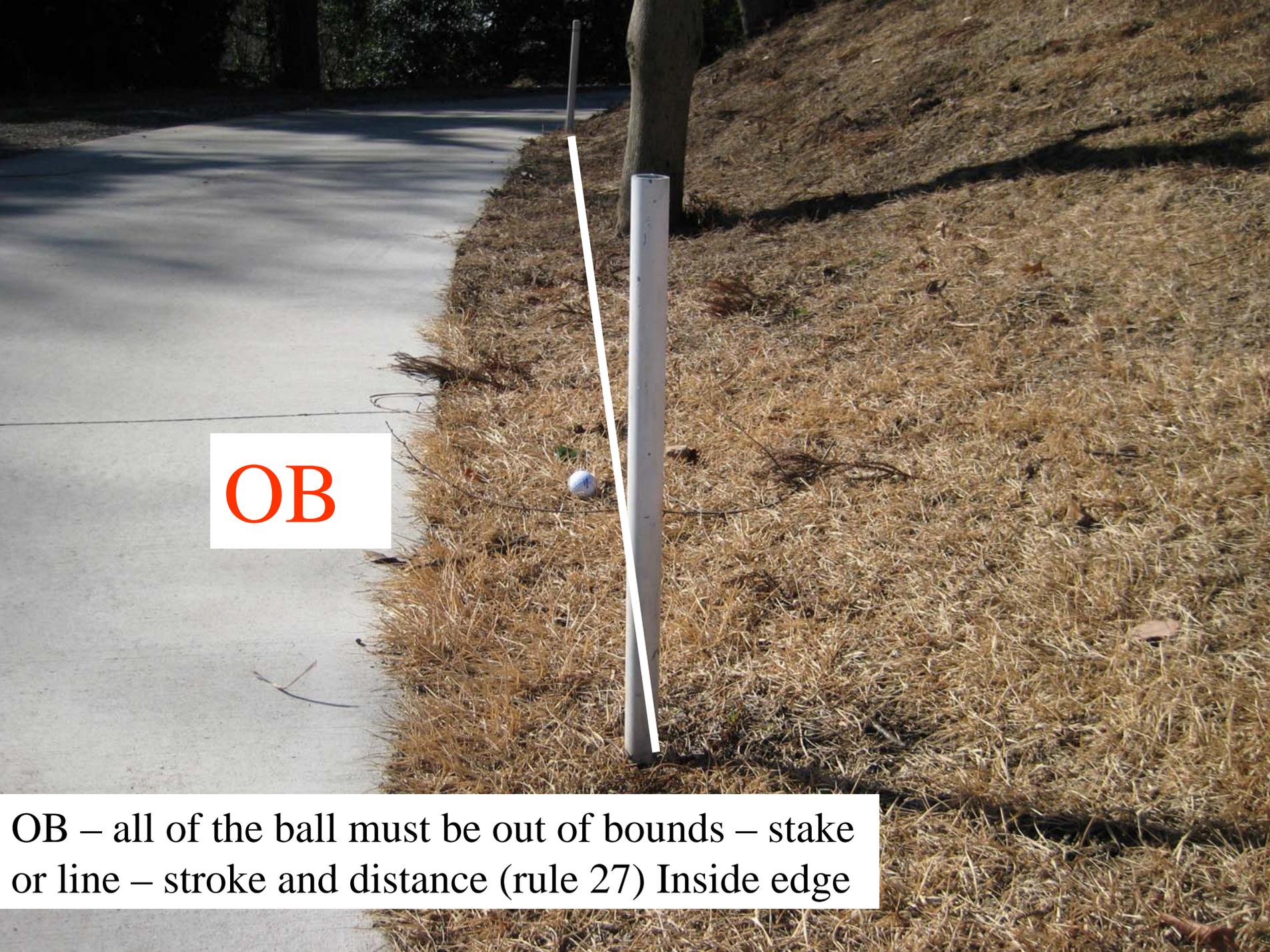
Inside margin of hazard (red stakes) but not playable (can
play it if playable)

A photograph of a golfer on a golf course. The golfer is wearing a dark jacket, a grey t-shirt, and dark pants. He is standing on a grassy area, looking down at a golf club on the ground. A red line is drawn on the grass, curving around a tree and extending towards the right. A black line is drawn on the grass, starting from the club head and extending to the right, with a small vertical tick mark at the end. The background shows a golf course with trees and a clear sky.

Measure 2 club lengths not near the hole and drop
– 1 stroke penalty



Unplayable lie – 3 options (1 stroke penalty) a. two club-lengths not nearer the hole b. keep point where ball lies and hole and go back as far as you want c. Play from where original ball was played



OB

OB – all of the ball must be out of bounds – stake or line – stroke and distance (rule 27) Inside edge



A white golf ball is positioned in the center of a divot on a patch of dry, yellowish-brown grass. The grass is sparse and brittle, with many blades broken or bent. The ball is slightly recessed into the ground, surrounded by a small depression. The lighting is bright, casting a soft shadow to the right of the ball.

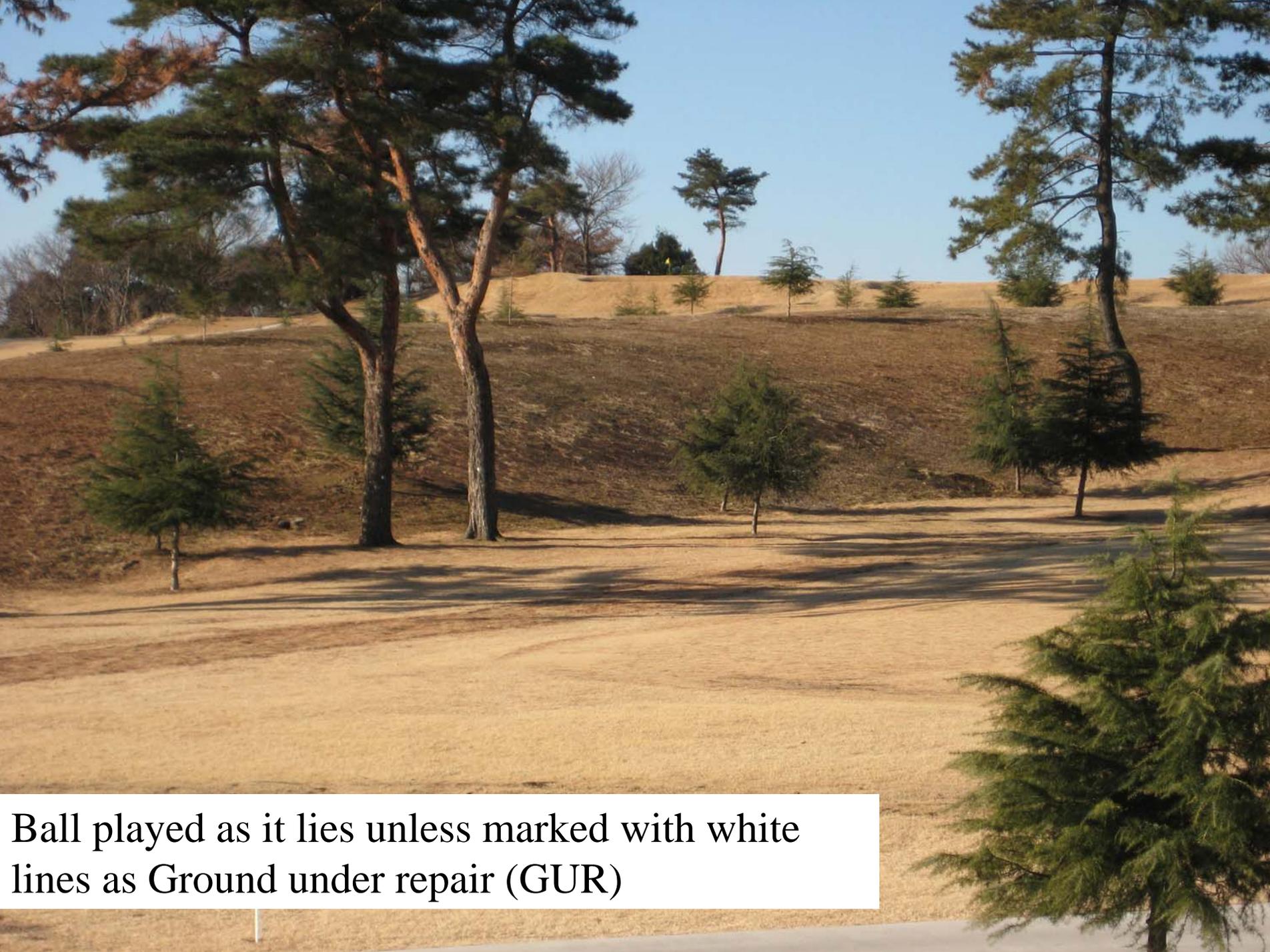
Ball in a divot – no relief – played as it lies or moved with one stroke penalty under unplayable ball rule

Legal only on the teeing ground – otherwise a one stroke penalty for improving the lie of the ball under rule 13-2 **DON'T DO IT!**



A photograph of a gravel road in a park. The road is made of small, light-colored stones and runs diagonally from the bottom left towards the center. The road is flanked by dry, yellowish-brown grass and several trees. Some trees are evergreens, while others are deciduous and have lost their leaves. Long shadows are cast across the road and grass, indicating it is either early morning or late afternoon. In the background, there is a large, open grassy area, possibly a sports field, and some buildings or structures in the distance.

Gravel road is obstruction – free relief



Ball played as it lies unless marked with white lines as Ground under repair (GUR)



Local Rule – relief from newly sodded areas. Rule will end this summer based on turf conditions.



Hole itself it ground under repair – other areas GUR only if marked (Usually for tournaments only)



Environmentally sensitive area – treated as lateral hazard – 1 stroke penalty – not allowed to retrieve your ball.



Foot traffic has damaged the slope – NO ENTRY

**Drop area –
not teed up!**

Hole #8



Hole #8

**Drop area –
not teed up!**



Hole #5 Bunker



Note 1 under rule 24-2b immovable obstruction – if a ball is in a water hazard (including a lateral water hazard) the player may not take relief from an immovable obstruction – he must take relief under Rule 26-1 (Water Hazard)

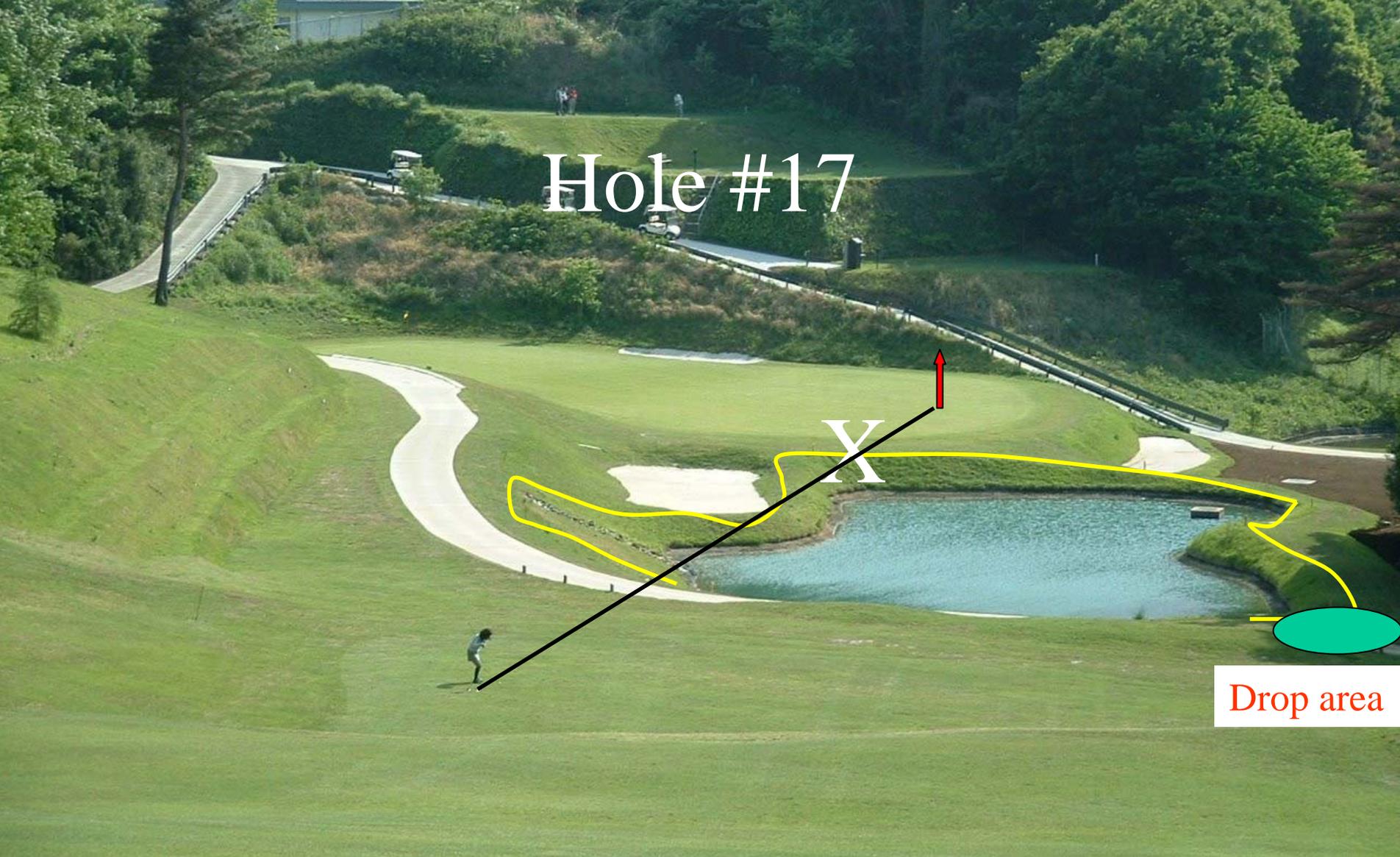
Hole #5 Bunker

2 Club lengths not
nearer the hole

X

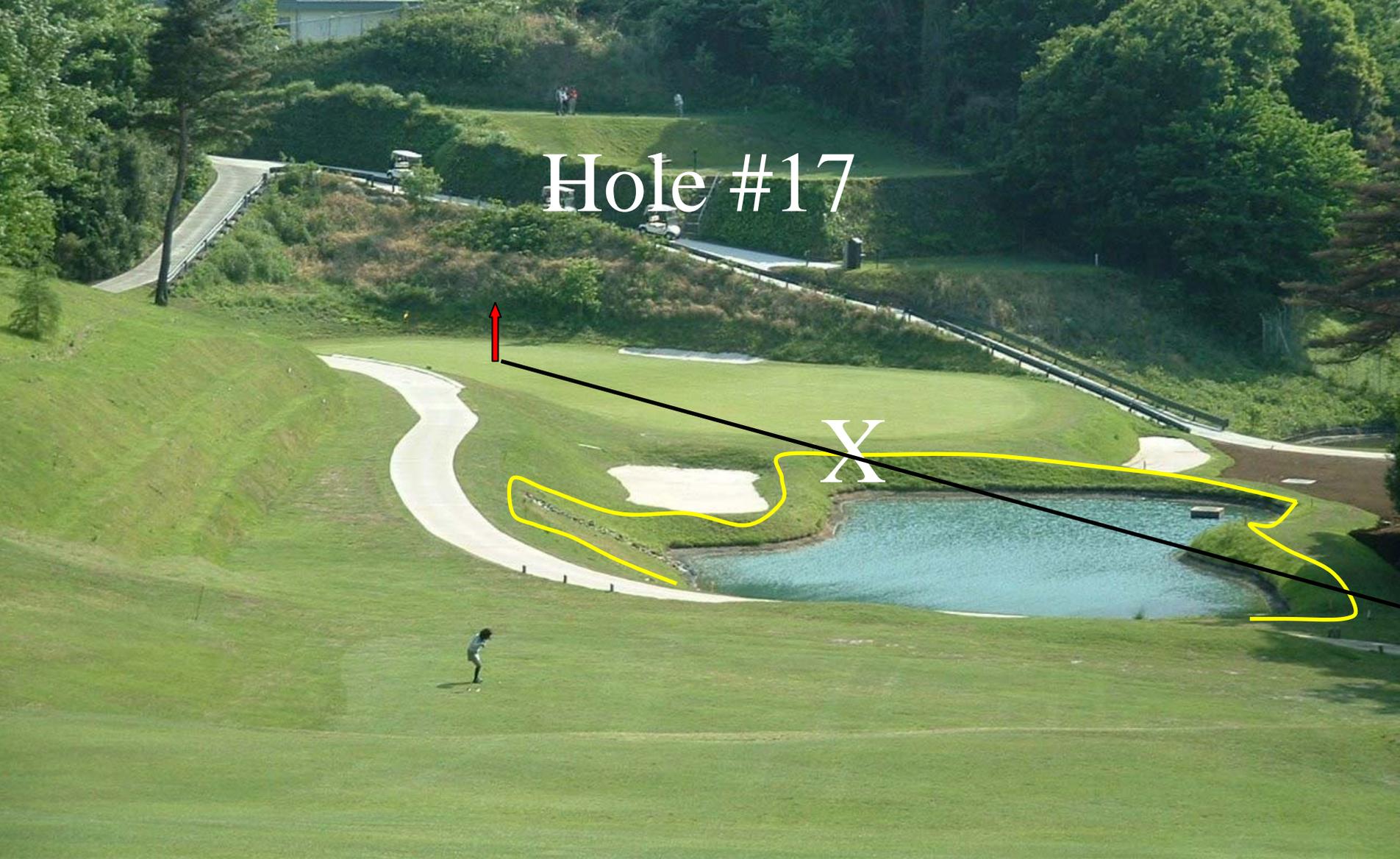


Hole #17



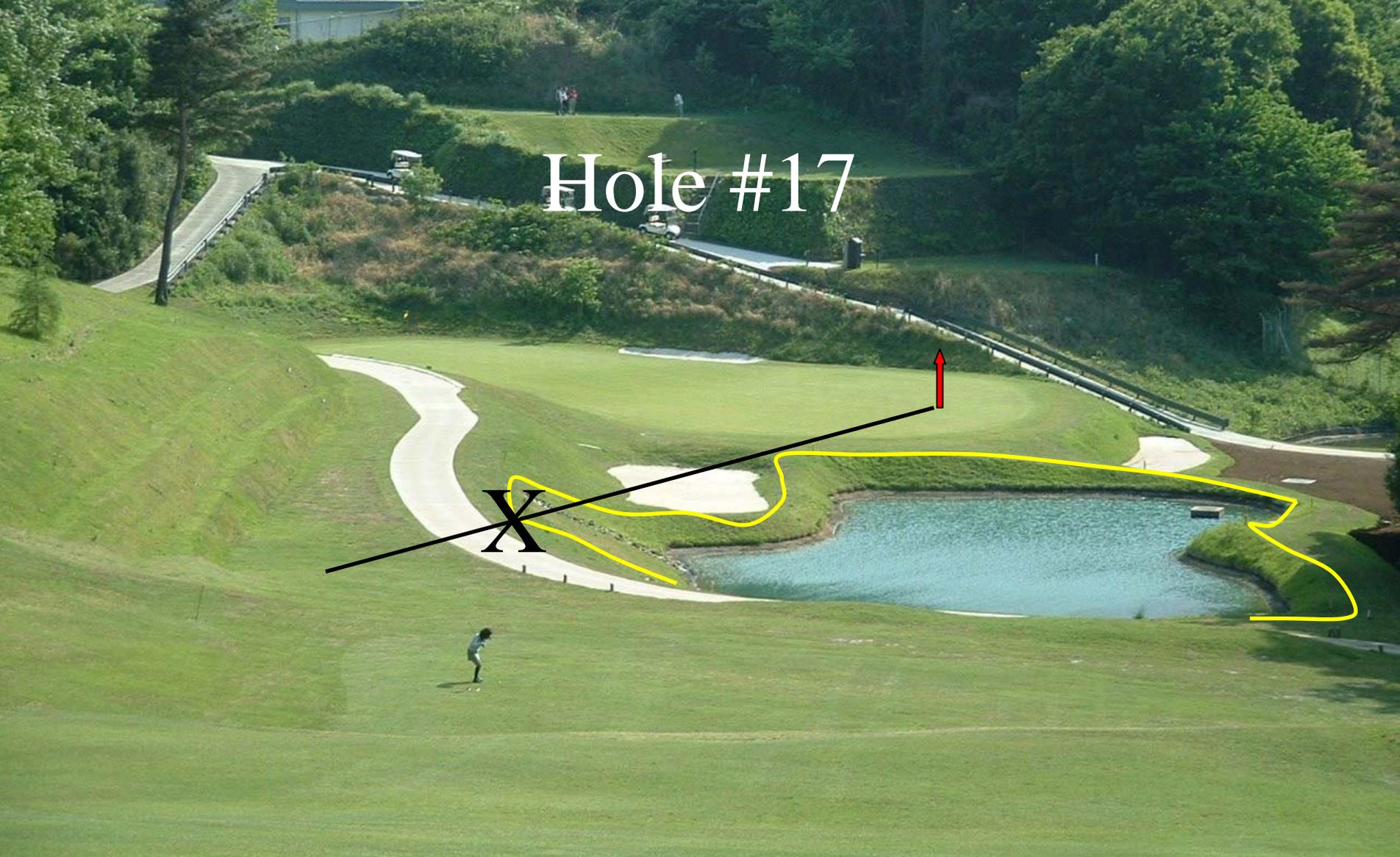
Regular water hazard – must keep point of entry between you and the hole (can go back as far as you want) or use drop area as an option if provided.

Hole #17



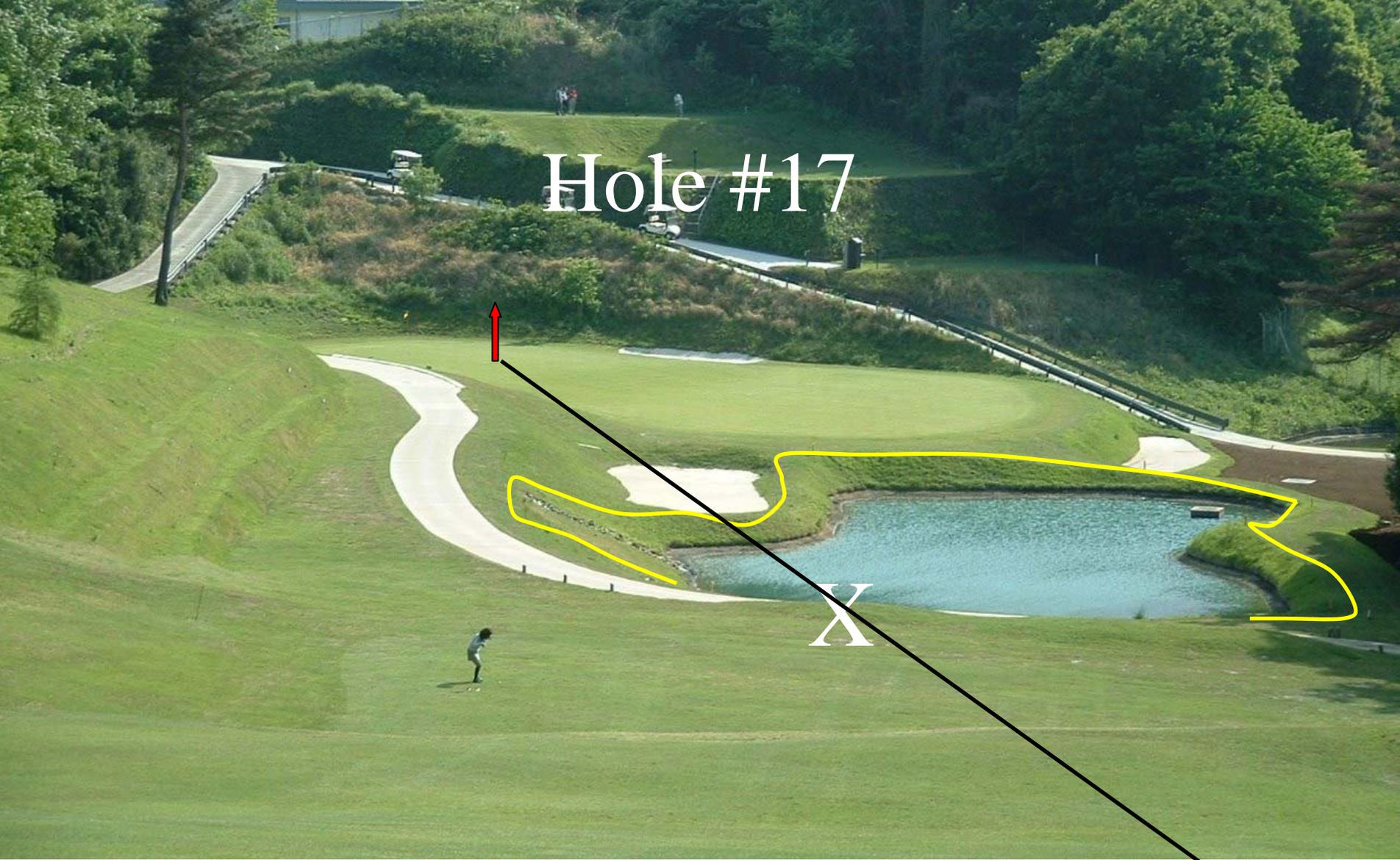
Regular water hazard – must keep point of entry between you and the hole. Or use drop area as an option if provided

Hole #17

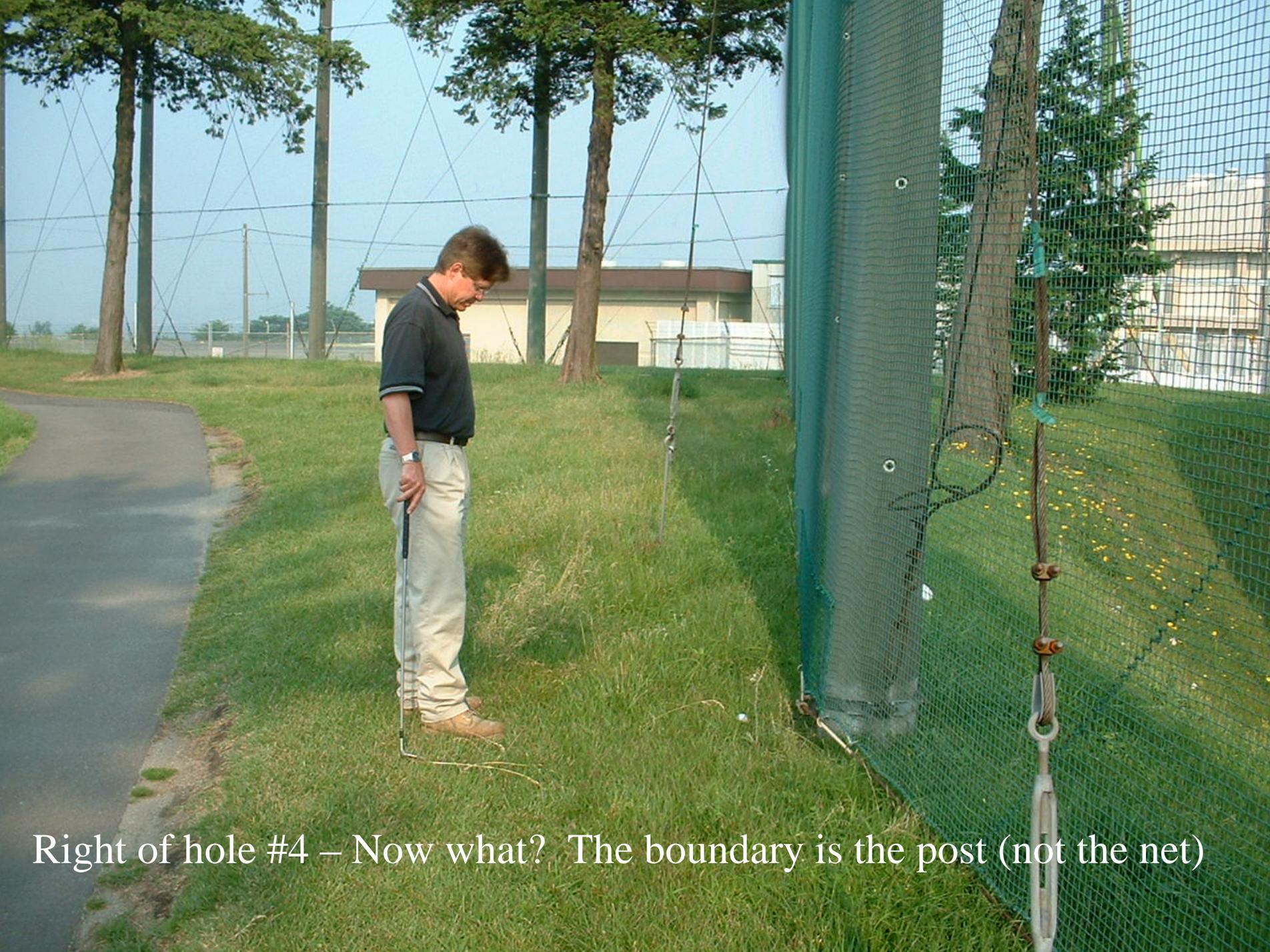


Regular water hazard – must keep point of entry between you and the hole. (or use drop area as an option if provided)

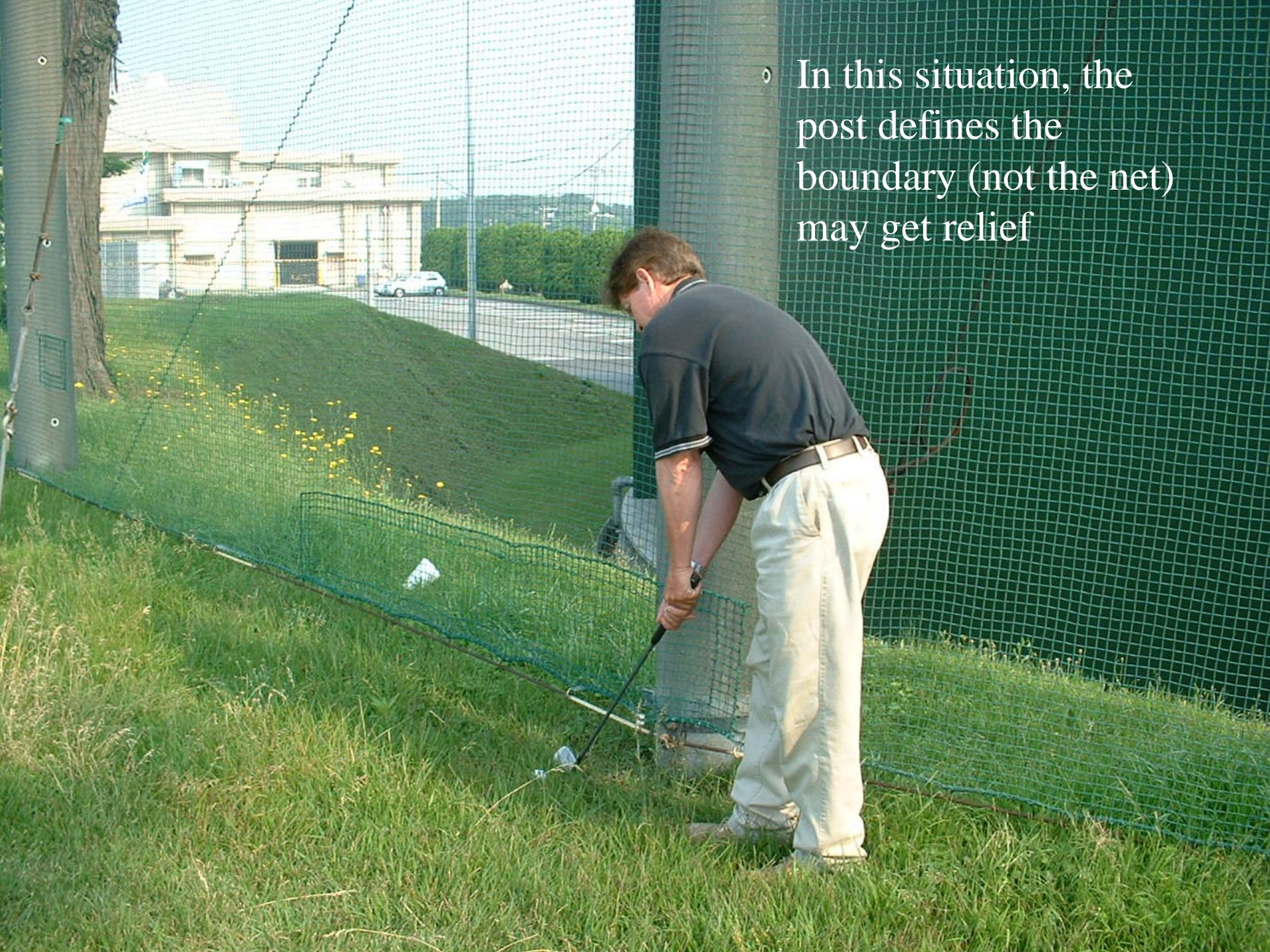
Hole #17



Regular water hazard – must keep point of entry between you and the hole. Or use drop area as an option if provided



Right of hole #4 – Now what? The boundary is the post (not the net)



o In this situation, the post defines the boundary (not the net) may get relief

The posts (not the net)
define the boundary
around #4 green





Stakes take over for this part.



Stakes transition to posts.

Cart path vs. fence. What takes priority?





Left of #13 – the post defines the boundary.



In this situation he is entitled to relief as his swing is blocked by the net.

A photograph showing a utility pole with several guy wires. One wire is attached to a metal chain anchor that is buried in the ground in a grassy area. The background features a chain-link fence, a paved road, and some buildings under a clear sky. The text "What about the supports? (Obstruction – relief given)" is overlaid on the lower-left portion of the image.

What about the supports?
(Obstruction – relief given)

Free relief if stance or swing is interfered with by the cart path.



The small wire mess fences are immovable obstructions. Free relief.



Fence clearly interferes with swing.



Same rule applies for the wire fence right of #15



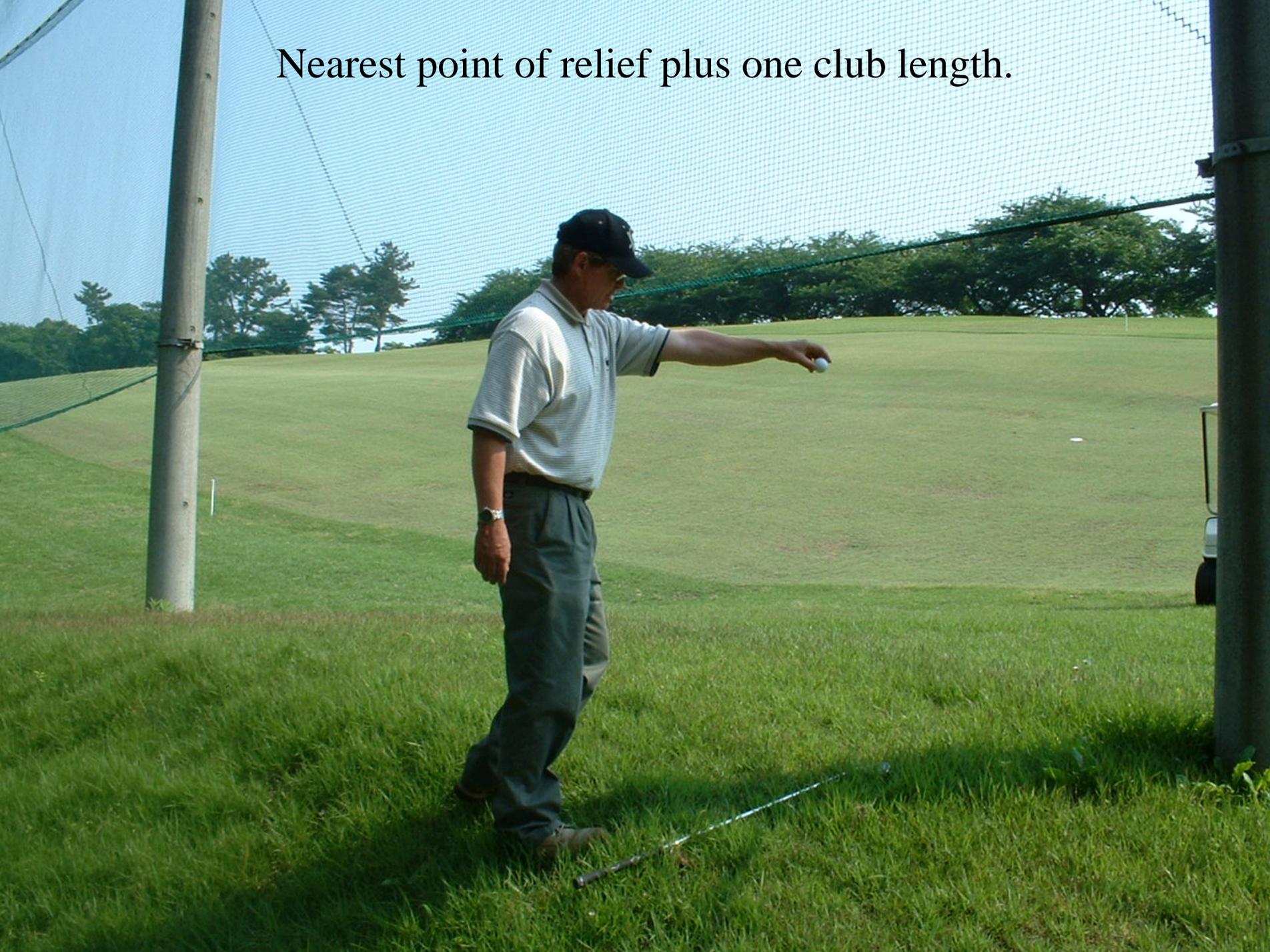


What's the ruling?



Cart path interferes with swing, free relief. –
Boundary is white poles

Nearest point of relief plus one club length.



Ball is in play.



Further relief from net only if it interferes with stance or swing – no line of sight relief.

Future
boundary



Yardage markers are
movable obstructions.



You can remove the marker if it interferes with your swing, line of sight or stance.



Remove and play the shot.



Replace when finished.



Relief or not? Only from
obstruction – stake not tree





Relief for stance or swing only!



No relief in this situation. (No interference)

Rules of Golf Seminar

Questions?

