



23-1. Relief ... for/or from a loose impediment

Except when both the **loose impediment** and the ball lie in or touch the same **hazard**, any **loose impediment** may be removed without penalty.

If the ball lies anywhere other than on the **putting green** and the removal of a **loose impediment** by the player causes the ball to **move**, Rule **18-2** applies.

On the **putting green**, if the ball or ball-marker is accidentally **moved** in the process of the player removing a **loose impediment**, the ball or ball-marker must be replaced. There is no penalty, provided the movement of the ball or ball-marker is directly attributable to the removal of the **loose impediment**. Otherwise, **the player incurs a penalty of one stroke under Rule 18-2.**

When a ball is in motion, a **loose impediment** that might influence the movement of the ball **must not** be removed.

Note: If the ball lies in a **hazard**, the player must not touch or move any **loose impediment** lying in or touching the same **hazard** - see Rule **13-4c**.

Penalty for Breach of Rule: Match play - Loss of hole; Stroke play - Two strokes.