What’s Your (Nearest) Point?

The focus of last month’s article was on definitions that must be applied when dealing with relief without penalty on the golf course. Often referred to as “free relief”, the most common need for this type of relief is from interference with a cart path. However, many other obstructions, such as sprinkler heads and control boxes use the same relief procedure requiring a good understanding of Rule 24 (Obstructions). This month we look at both movable and immovable obstructions but don’t be surprised if some of the questions require a quick review of pertinent definitions.

Questions: True/False

1. If a ball has come to rest on a discarded towel, it may be lifted and dropped within one club-length of the nearest point of relief.
2. A player’s ball has come to rest against an abandoned ball in a water hazard. He may remove the abandoned ball, but if his ball moves there is a penalty.
3. A player, whose ball lies on a cart path, may stand on the path to make his next stroke after taking relief.
4. The nearest point of relief does not guarantee the player a playable lie or a clear line of play.
5. There is a clear procedure a player must follow when determining the nearest point of relief and he must use the club he would have made his next stroke with if the obstruction was not there.
6. The one club-length drop area from the nearest point of relief must be measured with the club the player would have used if the obstruction was not there.
7. A player’s ball lies within a water hazard but is playable. A movable stake defining the margin of the hazard interferes with his swing. He may remove the stake.
8. A player’s ball lies within a water hazard and a permanent stake defining the margin of the hazard interferes with his swing. The player may determine the nearest point of relief and drop the ball within one club-length of this spot but it must be dropped in the hazard.
9. A drain in a bunker interferes with the stance of a player whose ball lies in the bunker. The ball may be dropped within one club-length of the nearest point of relief. Both the nearest point of relief and the spot of the drop must be within the bunker.
10. A player believes her ball is lost in a maintenance building on the course. Her only option is to proceed under the stroke and distance penalty of Rule 27 for a lost ball.