

Local Rule #11 ;

A player is entitled to free relief if a sprinkler head or drain cover (immovable obstruction) is located within 2 club lengths of the edge of the green, within 2 club lengths of the ball and in the intended line of play.

If the sprinkler head or drain cover IS MORE than 2 club lengths from the ball at rest or MORE than 2 club lengths from the green then free relief is not allowed. Intended line of play becomes irrelevant.

Sprinkler head or drain cover in the general area

Interference exists when your ball touches, or is in or on the sprinkler head or drain cover , or when the sprinkler head or drain cover ***physically interferes with your area of intended stance or swing*** – e.g., when you would have to stand on it to play your ball or your swing would strike it either on the way back or through. ***There is no free relief if the ball is merely lying close to the sprinkler head or drain cover but the only interference is visual rather than physical, so your ball could be lying just a couple of inches away from one but you would not be entitled to free relief.***



You are always entitled to free relief when your ball lies in or on a sprinkler head or drain cover.

Only when your ball is on the putting green can you also take free relief if a sprinkler head intervenes on your line of play. The reason for this is that you are rolling the ball along the ground when you get to the putting green, and the Rules of Golf do not expect you to have to putt through an immovable obstruction.

Sprinkler head or drain cover on your line

If there is a sprinkler head or drain cover on your line of play and you fancy putting it, this is not an automatic relief scenario under the Rules of Golf unless covered by our Local Rule. Yes, if your ball actually lies on the sprinkler head or drain cover it would interfere with your area of intended stance or swing, you would be entitled to free relief as elsewhere, but not just because it is on your line and you really want to putt.