

When can you hit a ball out of a penalty area and when **MUST** you take relief

There are 2 kinds of Penalty areas: those marked by Red stakes and those marked by Red stakes with Green caps. See Rule 17.1 in the R&A/USGA Rules of Golf for more detailed information.

Penalty area marked by Red stakes:

- You may choose to hit the ball as it lies within a penalty area marked by Red stakes
- You may take practice swings in a Red staked penalty area
- You may choose to take relief under a penalty of 1 stroke (see Rule 17.1(d))

Penalty area marked by a Red stake with a Green cap - otherwise known as a “No Play Zone”. These stakes can mark environmentally sensitive areas, dangerous areas and the like.

- No play zones on our courses mark dangerous areas, for example, along the cement drainage ditches on Catalina 2 and 5.
- If your ball comes to rest in a No-Play Zone, you **MUST** take full relief for stroke and stance under penalty of 1 stroke
- If your ball is adjacent to a No-Play Zone **but not inside it**, you may not stand in any part of the No-Play zone to hit the ball.
 - If you do, you will incur a 2 stroke general penalty
 - You are entitled to **free relief** if the No Play Zone interferes with your stance and/or your swing
 - See Rule 17.1(e) for further information

Photo on left - ball is in No Play Zone, stance outside it. If the ball is hit as it lies, player gets a 2 stroke penalty. Player **must** take relief from No Play Zone for 1 stroke penalty.

Photo on right - ball is outside No Play Zone but stance is inside it. If the ball is hit as it lies, player gets a 2 stroke penalty. Player is entitled to free relief for stance.

