

## Leaves

*Fallen leaves are loose impediments*



*The location of the loose impediment and the ball are the important considerations to determine if relief is permitted.*

If the loose impediment is on the putting green, it may be removed to obtain relief. There is no penalty if the ball or ball marker is moved during this process, provided the movement is directly attributable to the removal of the loose impediment. Do not replace the ball though, or the penalty is 2 strokes.

If the loose impediment is on the course (through the green), it may be removed to obtain relief, but there is a 1 stroke penalty if the ball is moved during the process. Do not replace it or the penalty is 2 strokes.

If the ball is in a hazard, the player must **not** touch or move any loose impediment lying in the same hazard. This also applies to addressing the ball and during the practice or backswing. Penalty is 2 strokes.

2 stroke penalty equates to a loss of hole in match play.

**Remember, don't just take my word for it, always consult your rule book.**

Aine Binchy

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