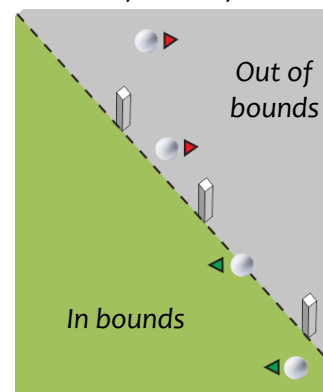


Boundary Edge

The boundary edge is defined by boundary objects or lines:

- When defined by stakes or a fence, the boundary edge is defined by the line between the *course-side points* of the stakes or fence posts at ground level (excluding angled supports), and those stakes or fence posts are out of bounds.
- When the boundary edge is defined by a painted line on the ground, the boundary edge is the course-side edge of the line, and the line itself is out of bounds.
- When a line on the ground defines the boundary edge, stakes may be used to show where the boundary edge is, but they have no other meaning.

Stakes, Fence, etc.



Boundary Object

Out of bounds refers to those areas outside the golf course from which play is not allowed. Out of bounds is marked in some way, often by stakes, lines, fences, railings, or road edges.

Boundary objects are types of artificial objects that can be found on the golf course. They differ from artificial objects called *obstructions*.

The items used to designate out of bounds are *not* considered obstructions. These **boundary objects** are also considered to be fixed, and therefore **cannot be removed** in order to play a shot. Free relief is not allowed.

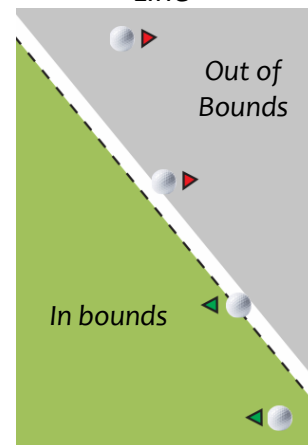
One-stroke penalty relief can be used via an unplayable lie, [Rule 19](#).

Boundary objects are treated as *immovable* even if they are movable or any part of them is movable.

This includes any base and post of a boundary fence, but does not include:

- Angled supports or guy wires that are attached to a wall or fence, or
- Any steps, bridge, etc. used for getting over the wall or fence.

Line



Out of Bounds

The boundary edge of the course extends up above the ground *and* down below the ground:

- This means that all ground and anything else (such as any natural or artificial object) inside the boundary edge is *in bounds*, whether on, above, or below the surface of the ground.
- If an object is both inside and outside the boundary edge (such as steps attached to a boundary fence, or a tree rooted outside the edge with branches extending inside the edge or vice versa), *only the part of the object that is outside the edge is out of bounds*.

