



Robotic Mower & Rules of Golf

What to do when your ball is affected by — or at risk of being affected by — the robotic mower in play

THE ROBOTIC MOWER IS AN OUTSIDE AGENCY & MOVABLE OBSTRUCTION — RULES 11 & 15 APPLY

1

SITUATION

Your ball is moved or deflected BY the mower while it is in motion

RULE TO APPLY

Rule 11.1 / Rule 9.6

A ball deflected or moved by an *outside agency* (including a robotic mower) must be replaced — no penalty to the player. The mower is treated as an outside influence, not a fellow competitor.

YOUR ACTION

1. Replace your ball on the **exact spot** from which it was moved (estimate if unseen).
2. **No penalty** is applied to you or anyone else.

2

SITUATION

Your ball comes to rest on, against, or underneath the stationary mower

RULE TO APPLY

Rule 15.2a(1)

The robotic mower is a *movable obstruction* when operating freely on the course. You may move it without penalty. If the ball moves when removed, replace it — still no penalty.

YOUR ACTION

1. Move the mower clear of your ball (switch it off first if accessible).
2. If your ball moves during removal, **replace it on its original spot**.
3. **No penalty stroke**. Play on normally.

EXCEPTION Mower docked at its charging station

RULE TO APPLY

Rule 16.1 (Immovable Obstruction)

When docked, the mower and station together are treated as an *immovable obstruction*. Free relief is available if the station interferes with your lie, stance, or area of intended swing.

YOUR ACTION

1. Find the **nearest point of complete relief**, no closer to the hole.
2. Drop within **one club-length** of that point, same area of the course.
3. **No penalty stroke**. Do not attempt to move or unplug the station.

3

SITUATION

The mower is operating nearby and poses a risk to your ball or your stroke

RULE TO APPLY

Rule 15.2a(2) / Rule 5.7a

Physical interference from a movable obstruction entitles free relief. If play is *suspended* by the Committee due to the mower's operation, all players must stop until the area is clear.

YOUR ACTION

1. If the mower interferes with your stance or swing, you are **entitled to free relief**.
2. **Lift the ball** and drop within **one club-length** of the **nearest point of complete relief**, no closer to the hole.
3. If play is suspended by a Committee member, **stop immediately** and await the all-clear.

4

SITUATION

Ball is believed to have been collected by the mower and cannot be recovered

RULE TO APPLY

Rule 9.6 (Outside Agency)

Where it is *known or virtually certain* that an outside agency collected the ball, it must be replaced without penalty. The ball is not deemed "lost" under Rule 18.2.

YOUR ACTION

1. Alert a fellow competitor or marker so the fact is witnessed and recorded.
2. **Replace a ball** on the spot from which the mower collected it.
3. **No penalty, no stroke-and-distance**. Inform the Club if the original ball is found in the mower.

Important — Mower Safety & Local Rule

Do not attempt to physically redirect a moving mower or override its controls unless you are an authorised greenkeeping staff member. Crossgar Golf Club operates the robotic mower under a *Local Rule*: it is declared a **Movable Obstruction** throughout the course. If in doubt about any ruling, mark your ball, complete the hole under protest, and refer the matter to the Club Captain or a Committee Member before submitting your card.