

**FAQ 7:**

*a) Someone told me you can't hold the flagstick while tapping in a two inch putt, is that right?*

*b) Someone I was playing with removed an out-of-bounds stake. When I told him that wasn't allowed he replaced it before playing his shot, what is the ruling on this?*

**Applicable Rule(s): a) Rule 14-3 (Unusual Use of Equipment)**

**Applicable Rule(s): b) Local Rule 5 (Movable Obstructions)**

**b) Rule 13-2 (Improving Lie, Area of Intended Stance or Swing, or Line of Play)**

**Answer:**

**a) Not necessarily.**

You may hold the flagstick while you putt out without penalty provided that you hold it in the air and do not rest it on the ground. If you do rest it on the ground then you are in breach of rule 14-3 **the penalty for which is disqualification!**

**b) He incurs a two-stroke penalty (or loss of hole if it was matchplay).**

Objects defining out of bounds are fixed, not movable obstructions, and so may not be moved. The player was in breach of Rule 13-2 the moment he moved the post and there was nothing he could then do to avoid the penalty. The replacement of the post before the next stroke was irrelevant.