

SITUATION: Tom's ball comes to rest in a creek between branches and leaves ...



QUESTION: Does Tom get a penalty or not? And how must he proceed?

ANSWER: "Loose impediments" such as unattached leaves and branches may be removed everywhere without penalty. However, if the ball moves as a result, it must be put back with 1 penalty stroke (except on the green where it's without penalty). Because Tom wasn't cautious enough when removing the leaves from the penalty area, he gets 1 penalty stroke; he must put his ball back, but not the leaves. Rule 15.1 and definition "Loose Impediment."

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