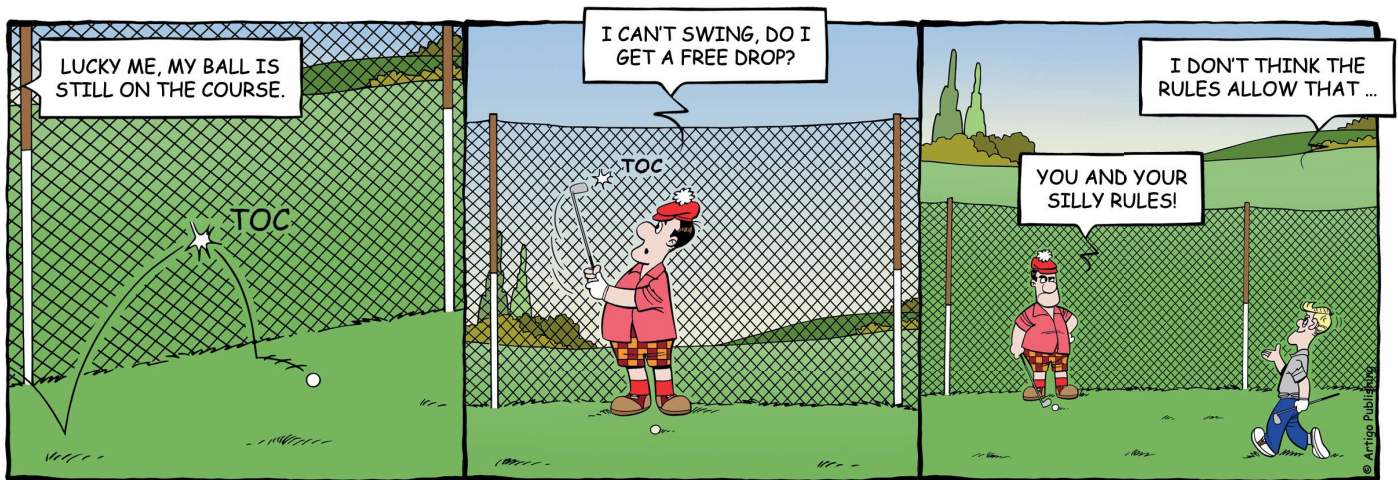


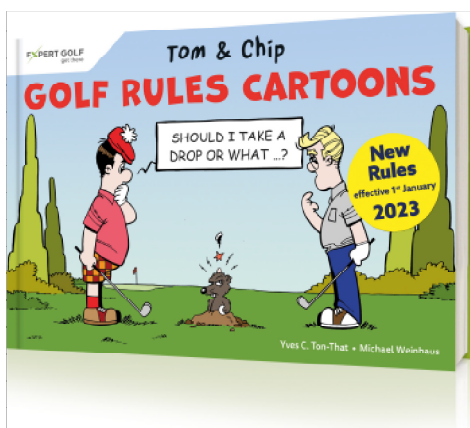
SITUATION: Tom's ball lands very close to a fence that defines out of bounds ...



QUESTION: Does Tom get a free drop because the out of bounds fence interferes with his backswing?

ANSWER: If a fixed artificial object ("immovable obstruction") interferes with a player's stance or swing, they usually get free relief. However, objects that mark out of bounds or artificial installations that are located out of bounds don't fall under this rule. Tom must play his ball as it lies or take a drop under the unplayable ball rule with 1 penalty stroke. Rules 16.1 and 19.2.

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