

# Rory pocket ball and other stuff

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Twitter is great because it gives me a chance to answer many rules questions. Often times, TV comments confuse the matter so let me take a minute to explain what happened in a couple of situations.

Yesterday Rory McIlroy missed the fairway at the par-4 14th hole at the Tour Championship in East Lake. But instead of finding the rough, McIlroy's ball hit a tree and then fell into a spectator's pocket.

Rule 19-1 tells us that if a ball in motion is deflected or stopped by an outside agency (the spectator) that is a "rub of the green" and must be played as it lie. But what happens if it is in the guy's pocket? I had questions come as to whether the ball was still in motion if the guy kept walking and the answer is "no." The rule tells us if it comes to rest in or on any moving or animate (translation: breathing) outside agency then the ball must be dropped as near as possible to the spot directly underneath the place where it CAME TO REST. The ball came to rest in the guy's pocket at the point it went in whether

he kept moving or not. The official properly made sure the spectator was at the spot where ball went in and that is where Rory dropped the ball and went on to make par.

Other questions I got were why Jason Day couldn't take relief from a fence during play. We saw him take an unusually steep swing as he negotiated his play where the ball lay very close to the fence. Under Rule 24-2, we know that we get a free drop from man-made immovable obstructions but the answer to this one is in the definitions in the front of the book. Anything that defines out of bounds (which this fence did) are not deemed to be obstructions so no relief is available.

Keep the questions coming!