

Do you know the rule.....

.....removing a white boundary stake



Sara Lee and Betty Crocker are raising a little dough in a brand rivalry match. Sara's tee shot on the 16th lands within the course 12 inches from a white out of bounds stake, which interferes with her swing.

She moves the white stake, tosses it aside, addresses the ball and then realizes that a white stake defining out of bounds is not a moveable obstruction, deemed to be fixed and cannot be removed.

To avoid the penalty Sara steps away from her ball, replaces the white stake and then hits her second shot onto the green. Ms. Crocker screams foul and claims that Sara Lee has lost the hole. What's the ruling?

Unfortunately for Sara she was in breach of Rule 13-2 the moment she removed the white stake and there was nothing she could do to avoid the penalty. The replacement of the white stake before her next stroke does not avoid the evil decree.

Note: Removing a red hazard stake or a rope stake cordoning off cart traffic that is interfering with your swing is OK because they are deemed movable obstructions.

(You can find further information on rule 13-2 in the USGA Rules Handbook)

THE KEEPERS

