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| [**Rules of Golf**](http://www.barryrhodes.com/)  |  |
| **[Obstruction in a Water Hazard](http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/RulesOfGolf/~3/CsD2rpiAPMg/obstruction-in-water-hazard.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email)** This question, with its accompanying photo, is typical of several that I receive on the subject of course signage and the Rules. In this circumstance, there is an additional dimension in that the sign is located within the margin of a hazard. **Question:** A ball came to rest inside a lateral water hazard close to a warning sign located inside the hazard. So, for a right hander player the ball is playable, but …a)    May they take relief from the sign, without penalty?b)    May they rotate the sign to face in a different direction? c)    May the sign be completely removed before the stroke is made, as it mentally interferes with the player’s swing?**Answer:**a)    No. There is no line of play or mental relief from an obstruction.b)    Yes, But it is not necessary, because …..c)    Yes. … Movable obstructions may be removed anywhere on the course.The sign is an obstruction, because it is an artificial object, Definition of Obstruction. It is obvious that the sign is intended to be easily movable and is therefore a movable obstruction, unless a Local Rule states otherwise. If the sign can be easily moved (and subsequently replaced!) the player may move it, as movable obstructions can be moved from anywhere on the course at any time (Rule 24-1). If it is not easily movable, it is an immovable obstruction, from which there is never relief if both the player's ball and the immovable obstruction lie inside the margin of the water hazard, Rule 24-2.Happy golfing!**Barry** |