

Application of MLR M-4 - Limited Relief for Ball in Bunker for Players Using Wheeled Mobility Devices

The scenarios in this document give examples of when a player may or may not be entitled to relief when applying [Model Local Rule M-4](#).

- 1) Situation: A player's ball comes to rest in the flat of a bunker, but given the size and shape of the bunker, the player is unable to get their wheeled mobility device into the bunker or close enough to the ball to take a stance.

Application of MLR: None of the exceptions apply and relief is allowed as the only reason playing the ball as it lies is not possible is because of their wheeled mobility device. But, if there is no spot in the bunker where the ball could be positioned for the player to take a stance without unreasonable effort, free relief is not allowed and the player must either play the ball as it lies or take unplayable relief (one penalty stroke for seated players).

- 2) Situation: A player's ball comes to rest on a spot in the bunker where it is possible to take a stance and play in the direction of the hole. But the player does not think they can play in that direction and clear the tall face above the bunker, so they attempt to take a stance to play out sideways and determine taking a stance for a shot in that direction is not possible because of the slope.

Application of MLR: Even though the player would be able to take a stance to play toward the hole, that is not the player's intended direction of play. The intended direction of play is sideways and is not clearly unreasonable since they don't think they could clear the steep face of the bunker. Relief is allowed based on this direction of play and, after relief is taken, the player can play in any direction which might result in further relief being available as this would be a new situation.

- 3) Situation: A player's ball comes to rest on the upslope of a greenside bunker in a decent lie (not buried) and the player wants to play toward the green.

Application of MLR: None of the exceptions apply. Relief is allowed if the player is not able to get their wheeled mobility device up the slope to take a stance. If the player is able to get their wheeled mobility device up the slope without unreasonable effort, relief is not allowed.

- 4) Situation: A player's ball comes to rest plugged in a steep face of the bunker where it is too steep to drive their wheeled mobility device up.

Application of MLR: Free relief might not be allowed. It needs to be determined whether playing the ball as it lies is not possible only because the player must make each stroke from a seated position. If this is the case, the player is allowed to take free relief under this local rule.

- 5) Situation: A player's ball comes to rest on a spot in the bunker where it is possible to take a stance and have a clear shot over a low lip of the bunker playing in the direction of the hole. But if the player were to play out sideways, their wheeled mobility device would be on a steep slope where it would take unreasonable effort to take a stance.

Application of MLR: The player has chosen a clearly unreasonable direction of play and is not allowed to take free relief as the player is attempting to play out sideways to create a situation where free relief would be available.

- 6) Situation: A player's ball comes to rest on the flat of a greenside bunker where they need to hit a high lofted shot over the lip of the bunker, but where their wheeled mobility device would be positioned starts to increasingly slope and the player shows you how a stance is not possible with an 8-iron in hand.

Application of MLR: As the ball is in a greenside bunker, an 8 iron is a clearly unreasonable choice of club. If a stance is not possible because their wheeled mobility device can't get up the slope to be positioned for the 8 iron, relief is not allowed. But if a stance could also not be taken with a sand wedge (assuming that's about the club the player would use to hit the shot), relief would be allowed with the reference point based on the sand wedge.