

Branden Grace incident at the HSBC Champions in China

Some of you watching the HSBC Champions in China would have seen Branden Grace, whose ball was lying outside a bunker, get relief from the bunker.

You may also ask what rule permits this kind of relief.

The answer is that because of the proximity of his golf ball, Branden Grace had to place one foot inside the bunker in order to fairly take his stance to play the ball outside the bunker. It just so happened that when taking his stance, the foot that was placed inside the bunker was placed onto a part of the bunker liner that had been exposed at the time. As the bunker liner is an immovable obstruction, Grace was allowed to take free relief from it and drop the ball within one club length of the nearest point of relief outside the bunker but no nearer the hole, Rule 24-2.

This is a classic example of knowing the rules and using them to your advantage.

If his ball was inside the bunker he is still entitled to relief without penalty except that the nearest point of relief must be in the bunker. Rule 24-2b(ii).

If the area in which the player is permitted to drop the ball in the bunker is deemed to be unfavourable by the player, he may under **penalty of one stroke**, drop the ball outside the *bunker* keeping the point where the ball lay directly between the *hole* and the spot on which the ball is dropped, with no limit to how far behind the *bunker* the ball may be dropped.