Rules 16.1—Key Concepts

• Interference is for:
  – Lie of ball
  – Area of intended stance
  – Area of intended swing
  – On the putting green only: line of play.

• Reference point is the nearest point of complete relief, drop within one club-length no nearer the hole.

• Relief is not available if
  – Playing the ball is clearly unreasonable due to some other condition
  – Interference only occurs through clearly unreasonable stroke, stance or direction.

• When ball not found, but known or virtually certain to be in ACC:
  – Ball is treated as lying where it last crossed the outermost limits for the purpose of determining the nearest point of relief.

• When ball inside no play zone in abnormal course condition, or outside a no play zone, but interfered with by the no play zone – must take relief.
Rules 16.2-16.4—Notable Changes

• Dangerous animal condition decision made into a Rule. The similar bunker option for relief is eliminated.
• Embedded ball now applies to whole general area by default, Local Rule may restrict relief to fairway cut or less.
• Embedded ball relief drop is into a relief area, not on a spot.
• Decision allowing player to lift to determine if Rule applies now Rule 16.4 and requirement to announce or involve others when proceeding is eliminated.
Rule 16.2-16.4—Key Concepts

16.2 Dangerous Animal Condition

- Nearest point of complete relief = nearest point that avoids the danger
- Relief procedures as if normal abnormal course condition, except relief in penalty area permitted.

16.3 Embedded Ball

- Ball embedded in its own pitch-mark when part of ball below ground.
- Drop within one club-length of spot immediately behind where embedded.
- Relief available in whole general area, except in sand (not in area of fairway cut)

16.4 Lifting Ball to See If It Lies in Condition Where Relief Allowed

- If reasonable belief a free relief Rule may apply (movable obstruction, abnormal course condition or embedded ball), ball may be marked and lifted.
- Ball may not be cleaned when lifted
  - Unless relief is allowed and player takes relief.