



Below are the Colorado Golf Association's guidelines and recommendations for Committees on holing out when flagsticks are not to be touched/removed and an object (such as a foam noodle cutout) has been placed in the hole to prevent a ball from falling to the bottom of the hole.

Please note that this is only for use during COVID-19 precautions. When normal play is resumed, the Rules of Golf will override these procedures.

Holing Out. If a Committee needs to keep a ball from falling to the bottom of the hole, the Committee should install an object inside the hole that will allow a ball to fall and come to rest below the level of the surface of the putting green. Care should be taken when installing the object so that it will not alter the path of a ball in motion on the putting green or keep a ball from coming to rest inside the hole.

“Holing Out with Foam Noodle in Hole – A ball is treated as “holed” when a ball is at rest in the hole after a stroke and any part of the ball is below the surface of the putting green. If a ball in motion bounces off a foam noodle or flagstick and does not come to rest in the hole as defined above, the ball is still in play and not considered holed yet. Nothing in this procedure overrides the Rules of Golf for the special case of a ball resting against the flagstick in the hole (Ball is treated as holed if any part of the ball is below the surface of the putting green, see Rule 13.2c).”

If installed correctly with at least 1 ½ inch of space between the top of the foam noodle and the surface of the putting green, a stroke that would be holed under normal circumstances should also be holed under these circumstances.

There may be a situation where the foam noodle could rise up towards the surface of the putting green throughout a day. It is important that players check the hole before putting to ensure that the foam noodle is deep enough and some of the cup liner is showing, as seen in the picture. If the foam noodle has risen up towards the surface of the putting green, players will be allowed to push the foam noodle back down to its correct position before making a stroke.

This same concept would also hold true if the flagstick is out of position and not centered in the hole. A player may adjust a flagstick that is not centered (carefully and without touching the flagstick with their hands) back to its centered position. The Rules still do not allow a player to adjust a flagstick to anything other than centered and then hit the flagstick, which would also apply to the foam noodle (Rule 13.2).

