

WORST-CASE SCENARIO®

HOW TO SCALE A FENCE TO RETRIEVE A BALL

1

Look for a gate.

If you cannot reach over, under, or through a fence to retrieve your ball, you will need to get to the other side. A nearby unlocked gate is the easiest means. If the gate is locked, the lock mechanism may serve as a good foothold.

2

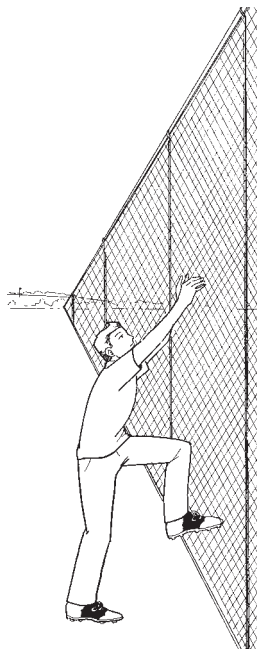
Look for the best part of the fence to scale.

Assess the fence for hand- and footholds. Typically, fences will be either chain-link or slatted wood. Chain-link fences, the more common type, provide excellent hand- and footholds. If the fence is wood, look for a part of the fence with a support post (preferably on both sides).

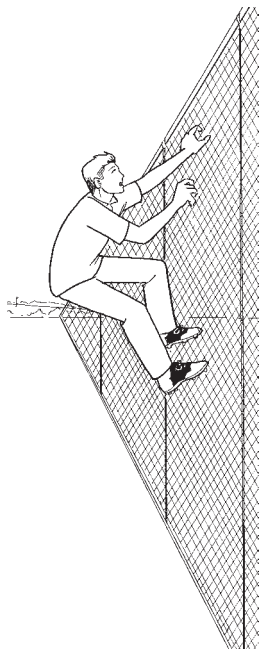
3

Assess the dangers of your landing area.

If the ground on the other side of the fence slopes off, make sure you can see what is at the bottom of the slope. Look also for rocks, soft sand, thorns, mud, water, or other hazards that may jeopardize your safety during and after your landing. Look for signs of animals. Snakes, alligators, or guard dogs may lurk on the other side. Whistle, or shake the fence before you attempt to climb; an animal may reveal itself.



Grab as far up the fence as you can, and establish a foothold.

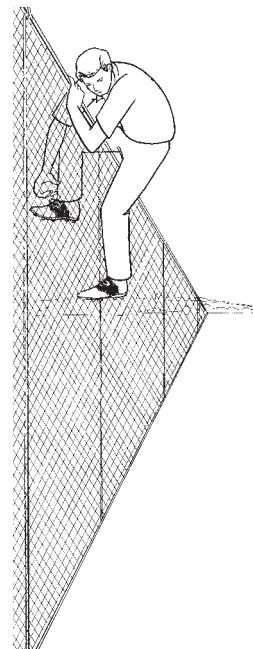


Use your legs and feet to push yourself up, and maintain balance with your arms.

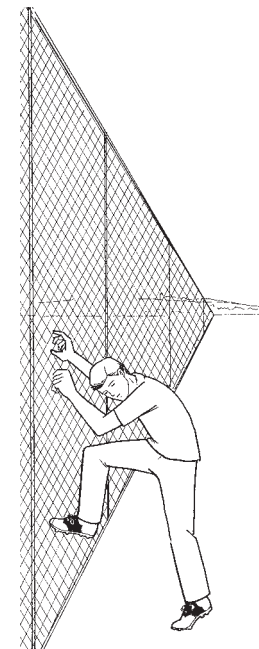
4 Prepare to climb.

Stretch. Take a few deep breaths. Remove articles of clothing or jewelry that might get caught on the top of the fence.

5 Grab the fence as high as you can reach.



When you reach the top, swing your feet and legs over first. Find a foothold on the other side.



Climb down in the same manner you ascended.

6 Establish a foothold.

Try to get as much of your toe on the foothold (or inside it) without getting it wedged too tightly. Use the cleats in your golf shoes to clip onto the fence.

7 Use your legs and feet to push yourself up.

Maintain balance with your arms, and pull as needed. Your leg muscles are bigger and stronger than those in your arms. Your arms will tire more quickly, which may affect your ability to get back over the fence.

8 When you reach the top, determine the best method for your descent.

You may be able to climb down the fence in the same manner you ascended: place your feet over the fence first, finding a foothold that will support you as you lower yourself with your arms.

Or

Go over headfirst.

Place your stomach on top of the fence, dip your head down, and swing your legs over and down. If the top of the fence is sharp or jagged, do not use this method.

Or

Jump.

Golf shoes will not absorb the impact of a jump of any significant distance. Aim for a clear landing spot, deeply bend your knees on landing, and be prepared to roll. Roll to your strong side (i.e., if you are right-handed, roll to your right). Tuck your shoulder and continue to let yourself roll until you come to a stop naturally.

9 Retrieve your ball.

Place it in your pocket or toss it over the fence. Do not hold it in your hand as you climb back over.

10 Repeat the process to return to the course side of the fence.

Be Aware

- A ball retriever can help you reach a ball lying just on the other side of the fence. If you do not carry a specially designed ball retriever, be cautious about reaching through a fence with a club: you could wind up losing the club as well as the ball.
- Do not trespass. Although people living along a golf course may be used to people invading their land, trespassing is a crime, and a serious fence may be an indication that the owner will protect property rights.

The Rule



Hitting a ball out of bounds incurs a one-stroke penalty. The rule also states that you must hit your next shot from where you originally played the ball, not from where it landed. If you play your ball from its out of bounds position, you will be assessed a two-stroke penalty in stroke play and a loss-of-hole penalty in match play.