

Who's Penalized When a Putt Hits the Flagstick?

Scenario...

Edith Bunker and Minnie Driver both had great approach shots and now their golf balls lie on the green. Minnie is away and asks Edith to remove the flagstick so that she can putt. Edith removes the flagstick and places it on the ground a few feet from the hole. Minnie putts her ball and it runs passed the hole and strikes the flagstick. Minnie says, "Now look what happened! It's your fault I hit the flagstick. You put it there."...Who gets the penalty in this situation?

Rule 17-3a will help you answer this one

After a stroke is made on the green, the ball may not strike the flagstick, whether the pin is in the hole, attended or lying on the putting surface.

The ball's path is the sole responsibility of the person who struck it.

She should have been aware that her putt might hit the stick.

The Penalty:

2 strokes in Stroke play (ball must be played as it lies) / Loss of hole in Match Play

