



## Rule of the Month

February 1, 2019

### Do Drops

With just a few tournaments completed under the 2019 Rules, it is apparent that drop procedures and relief areas continue to be a major source of confusion among players. The changes in the Rules are meant to simplify the process by minimizing the times when a golfer is required to re-drop, thus speeding up the pace of play. However, the confusion around the drops are slowing the pace as golfers take extra time to insure they are proceeding correctly. Over time the new procedure will become second nature and the pace of play will increase considerably when taking relief.

This month we hope to relieve some of the confusion on the course by challenging you with the following questions regarding dropping a ball when taking relief.

### Questions: True / False

1. There is a specific posture the player must take when dropping.
2. If a player drops from shoulder height, the mistake may be corrected before making a stroke at the ball with no penalty.
3. A player may substitute a ball every time he or she drops even when taking free relief or when the original ball is easily retrievable.
4. A relief area where the player must drop a ball is either one or two club-lengths from the reference point determined by the Rule and option being used.
5. The ball, when dropped, must be dropped in a specific relief area and come to rest in the same relief area.
6. When dropping in a dropping zone, the ball may come to rest outside the dropping zone but must be within two club-lengths of where it first hit the ground.
7. A player measured a relief area by laying a club on the ground and did not pick the club up. The ball, when dropped, hits the ground and then is accidentally deflected by the club, but comes to rest in the relief area. The player is required to re-drop since it struck a piece of his or her equipment.
8. When a correctly dropped ball comes to rest outside the relief area, it must be dropped again and there is no limit to the number of times it must be re-dropped.
9. Starting in 2019, a player never has to drop as near as possible to any specific spot.
10. There are only two times under the Rules where a two club-length relief area may be measured.