



Rule of the Month, July 2015

PART 3 of a 3 part Series about RULE 20-2C: Placing and Replacing

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The Answers:

1. **False.** When a Rule requires a ball to be replaced on a spot but the spot is not known the ball must be dropped as near as possible to the spot it originally lay unless it was on the putting green, in which case it is placed on the estimated spot. See Rule 20-3c.
2. **True.** When a dropped ball is re-dropped under Rule 20-2c and comes to rest in any location requiring a re-drop under Rule 20-2c it must be placed as near as possible to where it struck the course on the second drop.
3. **False.** In this situation the player proceeded correctly as Rule 20-3d requires two attempts to be made when a ball will not remain on the spot. After two attempts the player must find the nearest location, not nearer the hole, where the ball will remain at rest.
4. **False.** Under Rule 20-3a the ball may be replaced by the player or his partner. Additionally, if the player authorizes another person to lift the ball, (e.g. caddie) the other person may also replace the ball.
5. **False.** A ball may always be cleaned when lifted under a Rule except in the following circumstances--if it is unfit for play (Rule 5-3), or for identification (Rule 12-2), in which case it may be cleaned but only to the extent necessary for the identification. Also, the ball must not be cleaned under Rule 22 when it is lifted because it interferes or assists another player unless it was lifted from the putting green.
6. **False.** At any time a player is marking or re-moving a ball marker and the ball is moved accidentally there is no penalty provided the movement of the ball is directly attributable to the marking process. See Rule 20-3a. and Answer #7 for further clarity.
7. **False.** In this case the coin was accidentally dropped and thus the movement was not directly attributable to the act of marking the ball's position. If the player had bumped the ball with the coin while it was still in his hand, the movement of the ball would be considered directly attributable to the marking process. Decision 20-1/15 provides further clarification of the meaning of directly attributable.
8. **True.** Under Rule 20-4, a ball is in play as soon as the player drops, places or replaces it. In this case, the ball was in play regardless of if the coin marking its position is removed or not. As this player did nothing to cause the ball to move she must play it from its new location even though the ball marker is not lifted.
9. **False.** A player who is required to place or replace a ball may always position it as he sees fit.
10. **False.** In this situation, many players proceed incorrectly by placing the ball after the second drop. However, as the ball was first dropped in a wrong location it must be lifted and dropped again in the proper spot. The first drop is irrelevant when applying Rule 20-2c. Therefore, the second drop in the sequence in the correct location actually becomes the first drop when applying Rule 20-2c. In this case, the player must drop the ball a third time and if the ball rolls into any location covered by Rule 20-2c it must be placed as near as possible to where it struck the course on the third drop.