



Rule of the Month, May 2015

Here a Drop, There a Drop, Everywhere a Drop Drop.

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PART 1 of a 3 part Series: DROPPING

The Answers:

1. **Properly in play.** Under Rule 20-2a if a dropped ball touches the equipment of any player before it comes to rest it must be dropped again. While tees are equipment of the player, the definition of equipment excludes tees when they are used to mark the position of a ball or the extent of a drop area. The tees lose their status of equipment when used in this way and are just moveable obstructions on the course. Therefore, this ball is properly in play.
2. **Drop again.** The first sentence of Rule 20-2a states that the player must drop the ball himself. Decision 29/4 further emphasizes this point in a partner event by stating that the member of a side whose turn it is to play must drop the ball. Fortunately, Rule 20-6 allows a player who has dropped or placed incorrectly or in a wrong place to lift and proceed properly without penalty provided a stroke has not been made at the ball.
3. **Properly in play.** There is no requirement in any Rule as to where the player must stand when dropping a ball.
4. **Drop again.** Rule 20-2a requires the player to stand erect, hold the ball at shoulder height and arm's length and drop the ball. Dropping from too high or low will result in a penalty of one stroke if the player doesn't correct the error before making his next stroke.
5. **Drop again.** The ball has touched equipment of a player before coming to rest and must be dropped again. There is no limit to how many times a ball must be dropped in this circumstance. If the player failed to drop again and played the deflected ball he would incur the general penalty of loss of hole in Match play or two strokes in Stroke play. See Rule 20-2a.
6. **Drop again.** Rule 25-2 requires a player taking relief for an embedded ball to drop the ball as near as possible to where it lay embedded. Certain Rules allow a one or two club-length dropping area but Rule 25-2 is not one of them. Additionally, he is not allowed to repair the pitch-mark as that would breach Rule 13-2 for improving the area of the intended drop.
7. **Properly in play.** A dropped ball may always roll toward the hole provided it comes to rest in a location not requiring a re-drop under Rule 20-2c. This will be covered extensively in next month's article.
8. **Drop again.** This ball has been dropped in a wrong place and the player would incur a penalty if he makes a stroke at the ball. A dropped ball must first strike the course where the applicable Rule requires. In this case, within one club-length of the nearest point of relief. See Rule 20-2b.
9. **Drop again.** When the exact location of where a ball must be put into play is unknown it must be estimated. The estimated spot is now treated as the exact spot. Under Rule 20-2b the drop must not be nearer the hole than the estimated spot. Since she dropped nearer the hole than this spot she must correct the error by dropping no closer to the hole than this estimated/exact spot.
10. **Properly in play.** Provided the ball has not come to rest in a location requiring a re-drop under 20-2c, the ball is properly in play. It may even come to rest nearer the hole than any part of the drop zone.