



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 Questions:

This month's article, as well as articles in coming months, will focus on properly putting a ball back into play by dropping or placing. Knowing how and where to drop, or when to place or replace, is paramount to successfully navigating the course without incurring additional penalties. June's article (Part 2) will focus on Rule 20-2c, sometimes referred to as the "drop, drop, place" Rule and July's article (Part 3) will focus on placing and replacing and the many issues that surround what appears to be a simple Rule. However, this month the focus is primarily on dropping. Many questions surround the act of dropping, such as who must drop, how to drop, and where to drop, among others. **Your task is simply to determine in each scenario below if the dropped ball is properly in play so that the player may make a stroke at the ball without incurring any further penalty - or must the ball be re-dropped?**

1. A player marks the extent of a drop area by placing a tee in the ground. He drops a ball and it is deflected by the tee.
2. In Foursome (alternate shot) competition, Player A hits the ball into a water hazard. He correctly determines where to drop a ball and drops a new ball for his partner to play the next stroke.
3. In taking relief from a lateral water hazard, the player stands in the hazard and drops the ball outside the hazard in the required drop area.
4. A ball is dropped from a point which is above the player's head.
5. A player declares his ball unplayable and measures two club-lengths from his ball with his driver. He leaves the driver on the ground and the dropped ball is deflected by the driver.
6. When taking relief for an embedded ball, the player drops about two and a half feet (within one club-length) behind the original location of where the ball was embedded.
7. In taking relief from a water hazard, a player goes back about 10 yards behind the hazard, keeping the spot where the original ball last crossed the margin between the hole and the spot of the drop. The dropped ball rolls directly towards the hole and comes to rest one club-length closer to the hole from where it first struck the course when dropped.
8. In taking relief from a cart path, the player determines the nearest point of relief and drops just outside the one club-length requirement. The ball rolls and comes to rest within one club-length of the nearest point of relief.
9. After hitting her ball out of bounds, the player is required to proceed under stroke and distance but she is unable to determine the exact location of her previous shot. She estimates the spot and drops two inches nearer the hole than the estimated spot.
10. In taking relief from a water hazard, the player drops a ball in a dropping zone established by the Committee. The dropped ball rolls and comes to rest outside the dropping zone.