



Rule of the Month, Rule 20-7

August 1, 2015

Wrong Ball or Wrong Place?

Of all the Rule situations that occur on the course one of the most difficult to unravel is if the player has played from a wrong place or has played a wrong ball and must correct the error by playing the correct ball. While the play of a wrong ball must always be corrected, playing from a wrong place is only required to be corrected if the breach is considered serious. While we will not cover what is considered a serious breach of playing from a wrong place in this article, we encourage you to take a few moments to read Rule 20-7 and the Decisions related to that Rule for further clarity.

A few principles are helpful when determining if a stroke has been made at a wrong ball or from a wrong place.

- Wrong Ball: Is never the player's ball in play.
- Wrong Ball: May be the player's original ball if it is no longer in play.
- Wrong Ball: Every ball, other than the player's ball in play, is a wrong ball with two exceptions
 1. Provisional ball. Provided the original ball has not been found in bounds.
 2. Second ball played under Rule 3-3 or Rule 20-7 in stroke play only.
- Wrong Place: Must be with the player's ball in play.
- Wrong Place: The ball might not be the original ball of the player but it must be the player's ball in play, i.e. the player must have intentionally put the ball into play.

Your task this month is to determine if the player in each of the following situations has played a **wrong ball** or from a **wrong place**. Good Luck.

1. The player marks the position of his ball on the putting green, lifts the ball and sets it aside. By mistake he putts from where he set his ball aside without replacing it.
2. The player is asked by a fellow-competitor to move his ball marker off the fellow-competitor's line of putt. The player moves his ball marker one putter head to the right. He inadvertently replaces his ball in front of the ball marker without returning the mark to its original position and putts.
3. The player's tee shot comes to rest out of bounds. He makes a stroke at it from out of bounds.
4. The player's ball comes to rest out of bounds. He drops and plays a ball within one club-length of where the ball last crossed the out of bounds.
5. After hitting her ball towards high grass, the player properly announces and plays a provisional ball. She finds her original ball inbounds but in a poor lie and decides to continue play with the provisional ball. She completes the hole with the provisional ball.
6. A player's ball comes to rest on a cart path. He drops a different ball almost two club-lengths from the nearest point of relief and plays.
7. After searching for more than five minutes for his ball, the player finds his ball and continues play with it.
8. After a brief search, a player finds an abandoned ball which he thinks is his ball in a very poor lie. He declares the ball unplayable and lifts and drops the ball within two club-lengths. After he hits the ball onto the green he finds his original ball nearby.
9. In match play, a player is uncertain of how to proceed for interference from casual water. He decides to play two balls and plays the original from the casual water and the other from within one club-length of the nearest point of relief.
10. The player's ball comes to rest in an area of the course where play is prohibited. Unaware of this fact she plays the ball.

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