



Rule of the Month, June 2015

Drop It Like It's Hot, or Not.

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PART 2 of a 3 part Series about RULE 20-2C: DROPPING AND RE-DROPPING

The Questions:

Once a ball has been dropped in the correct location and has not struck anyone or the equipment of any player it is now governed by Rule 20-2c (When to Re-Drop). This Rule requires the player to lift the dropped ball and re-drop it if the dropped ball comes to rest in certain locations. It is important to note that when proceeding under this Rule the player must proceed under the original selected Rules option. Sometimes called the "drop, drop, place" Rule, it is a large source of confusion on the course. Often, a player will re-drop the ball when it has been properly put into play and has not come to rest in a location requiring a re-drop. The opposite also occurs as players will make a stroke at a dropped ball that must be re-dropped. In both cases, the player has played from a wrong place and incurs the general penalty for doing so. In July we will focus on the placement of the ball after a re-dropped ball comes to rest in a location covered by Rule 20-2c. However, this month we focus on the re-drop of "drop, drop, place."

In each of the following situations, determine if the ball must be re-dropped under Rule 20-2c.

Re-drop or Play it as it lies?

1. An embedded ball is lifted and dropped as near as possible to its original location but not nearer the hole. It rolls and comes to rest in the original pitch-mark.
2. A player's ball is in bounds but rest against an out of bounds stake. He declares the ball unplayable and drops within two club-lengths. The dropped ball rolls and comes to rest out of bounds.
3. In taking relief from a water hazard, a player selects the option of keeping the spot where the ball last crossed the margin directly between the hole and where she drops. She backs up 20 yards behind the hazard and drops a ball. The ball rolls directly at the hole and comes to rest one and a half club-lengths from where it struck the course on the drop.
4. A player declares his ball unplayable in the rough and drops a ball within two club-lengths but not closer to the hole. The ball rolls and comes to rest in its original unplayable lie.
5. After determining the nearest point of relief from a sprinkler head, the player properly drops within one club-length and the ball comes to rest nearer the hole than the nearest point of relief but not nearer the hole than its original position.
6. In taking relief from a lateral water hazard the dropped ball rolls and comes to rest nearer the hole than where it last crossed the margin of the hazard.
7. After determining the nearest point of relief from a gopher hole the player drops within one club-length of this point and the ball rolls outside the one club-length area but not more than two club-lengths from where it struck the course on the drop.
8. When taking relief from a water hazard the player drops and the ball comes to rest in a location not requiring a re-drop. As he retrieves a club for his next stroke the ball begins to roll and comes to rest back in the water hazard.
9. A player drops a ball just within the two club-length regulation of Rule 28c for her ball she has declared unplayable. The ball rolls and comes to rest just short of two club-lengths from where it struck the course on the drop. The ball is now almost four club-lengths from where she declared it unplayable.
10. A player takes relief for his ball which lies on a cart path. He determines the nearest point of relief and drops within one club-length. The ball rolls and comes to rest in a location where he now has to stand on the path to make his next stroke.