

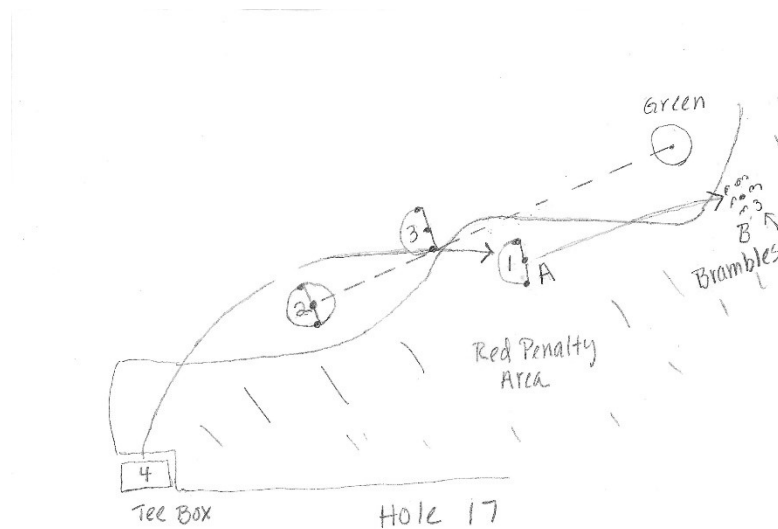
WOWGG – March 2023 Rule of the Month

Ball Played from Penalty Area Comes to Rest in Same Penalty Area

Last month's rule talked about the local rule which gives you a choice of hitting your provisional ball or your original ball if original found in a penalty area.

Normally you can never drop a ball inside a penalty area. You either hit the ball if it's found and playable, or you have 3 relief options: stroke-and-distance (from where previous stroke was made), back-on-the-line from where it crossed into the penalty area to the flagstick, or lateral relief (red stake areas), 2 club-lengths from where it crossed over into the penalty area.

Here's the scenario for this month's rule: You are on hole 17, where your tee shot must cross over the penalty area. You hit your shot, and it lands right near the end of the penalty area. You can't see for sure if you made it over. So, you hit a provisional ball. You get over there and see that you are in the penalty area however, the ball is playable, as shown in the photo with the red ball, marked spot A in the diagram. You hit the ball, and it slices right into the brambles on the right, **STILL** in the penalty area, spot B in the diagram. You go over and determine the ball is now unplayable. Where do you hit your shot from now?



There are four options. You may:

- (1) Take stroke-and-distance relief by playing a ball from the spot where the previous stroke was made from inside the penalty area, and you're playing your 4th shot. This is the **ONE TIME** you can drop a ball inside a penalty area.
- (2) Take back-on-the-line relief by dropping a ball outside the penalty area in line between where you originally crossed into the penalty area and the hole. Usually on hole 17, that would be the tee box,

unless your ball first crossed over the penalty area and then went right, back into the penalty area. You're playing your 4th shot.

- (3) Take lateral relief, but only if your original ball first crossed the penalty area then went right into the penalty area. The reference point is where your original ball crossed the penalty area, and you get two club-length area, no nearer the hole, to drop. You are playing your 4th shot.
- (4) Play a ball from the teeing area as this was where you made the last stroke from outside the penalty area, and you're playing your 4th shot.

Please everyone, **send me rules questions**, with photos if possible, so I can show the rules relevant to our course. Send to deedee.owen@gmail.com or text me at 408-234-5017.

REMINDER – I have those rules cards showing the new rule for dropping back-on-the-line and you can get one for \$5.

Dee Dee Owen, Rules Chair

Mar 29, 2023