

RULES CORNER

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JANUARY 2021

STARTING A HOLE FROM THE WRONG PLACE

What should a player do if she hits a **tee shot** from the wrong place – either the wrong teeing area or the wrong place in the teeing area? This is covered in **Rule 6 - Playing a Hole**.

First it is important to know that the **Teeing Area** is defined as the rectangle that is formed by the space between the two tee markers extending back away from the hole two club lengths.

If a player fails to tee the ball on the correct teeing area (designated by the competition rules) or if she tees the ball outside of the above-mentioned rectangle of the correct teeing area:

- 1) In Match Play this is not a penalty **but** the opponent may cancel the stroke promptly before another player makes a stroke and the player must then play a ball from the designated teeing area. If the opponent does not cancel the stroke the original ball counts, is in play and must be played as it lies.
- 2) In Stroke Play the player gets the **general penalty (two strokes)** and must correct the mistake by playing a ball from the designated teeing area. The original ball played from outside the teeing area is not in play and any strokes made with it do not count. If the player does not correct the mistake before making a stroke to begin another hole or, for the final hole of the round, before returning her scorecard, the player is **disqualified**.

FEBRUARY 2021

PLAYING A BALL FROM THE WRONG PLACE

Last month we explored what to do if one tees off from the wrong place. But what about playing a ball from the wrong place after starting the hole? This is covered in **Rule 7 - Playing from Wrong Place**.

Rule 14.7a states that a player must make each stroke from where her ball came to rest except when the rules require or allow it to be played from another place. Playing from the wrong place incurs the **general penalty (two strokes)**.

Rule 14.7b tells how to complete a hole after **playing from a wrong place** in stroke play.

1. Decide whether to play out the hole from the **wrong place** or **correct** the mistake by playing from the **right** place:
 - a. If **Not a Serious Breach** (ie. the player gained no significant advantage) play out the hole from the **wrong place** and incur the **general penalty**.
 - b. If a **Serious Breach** you must correct the mistake by playing out the hole with a ball played from the **right place** which also incurs the **general penalty**. If you do not correct the mistake before starting the next hole or, for the final hole, turning in your scorecard, you are **disqualified**.
 - c. If unable to decide whether the breach is serious, play out the hole with both a ball played from the **wrong place** and a ball played from the **right place**.
2. If you tried to correct the mistake you must report the facts to Committee before turning in your scorecard. If you do not report to the Committee you are **disqualified**.
3. After you correct the mistake and report to the Committee, the Committee will decide if playing from the original place was a serious breach.
 - a. If not, the score with the original ball counts. (This assumes you played out both balls.)
 - b. If it was a serious breach, (or if you did not play out two balls) the score with the second ball counts.
 - c. In both cases, you still receive the general penalty.

Interestingly, if the second ball was also played from a **wrong place** with no serious breach you incur another **general penalty**, ie. a total of four penalty strokes. If it was a serious breach you are **disqualified**.