

Moving Your Ball

In 2019 moving your ball has become more complicated and possibly confusing.

Here are some quick reminders to help you.

Any time you move your ball you will incur a one stroke penalty, the exception being on the Putting green or the Teeing area. This is where “complicated” begins. So..... step by step.

Let's ignore the Putting green and Teeing area right now, OK?

So anywhere else, e.g. fairway, rough, you make a **PRACTICE STROKE** at your ball you **will not count that stroke** as your intention was **NOT to hit the ball**.

HOWEVER you will incur a ONE stroke penalty for moving your ball. You must replace your ball or you will incur a two stroke penalty.

When your ball is in play if you accidentally move your ball by kicking it, knocking it with your club or push cart, same penalty **ONE stroke for moving it**, two strokes if you don't put it back.

Now PUTTING green

If you accidentally move your ball on the putting green there's **NO penalty**. Put it back where it was and putt on!

Now Teeing AREA

First let's define **Teeing area**.

It is a rectangle two club lengths deep where the front edge is defined by a line between the forward most points of two tee markers. The side edges are defined

by the lines back, two club lengths deep, from the outside points of the tee markers.

Until a stroke is made at a ball from the teeing area the ball is not “in play”.

A stroke is the forward movement of the club made with the intention to strike the ball

If the forward movement of the club is stopped a stroke has not been made.

So you make a practice stroke and move the ball. You may put it back where it was or you may re tee the ball ANYWHERE in the teeing area and try again. As there was **No stroke, there’s no penalty.**

You make a stroke at the ball and you move it, but the ball stays in the teeing area.

The stroke counts and you may lift or move the ball without penalty, and play that ball or another ball, from ANYWHERE in the teeing area. You may play it where it lies, put it on a tee, or play it from anyplace within the teeing ground. As long as the ball stayed in the teeing area you will only take one stroke for the stroke you made at the ball, **no penalty stroke.**

You make a stroke at the ball, it goes forward only a short way but it leaves the teeing area.

The stroke counts. You may play the ball where it lies.

OR You may bring the ball back to anywhere the teeing area, re tee it if you want or not, and then make a second stroke at the ball. Now you have **made two strokes at the ball but have also incurred a stroke and distance penalty by bringing the ball back to where you made your last stroke.**

Complicated? Yes. More understandable now? I hope so.

If not ask me!

