

FAQ 2: *If I drop a ball in a drop zone and it rolls outside the zone do I have to re-drop it?*

Applicable Rule(s): Appendix I part B section 8 (Dropping Zones)

When using a dropping zone the following provisions apply regarding the dropping and re-dropping of the ball:

- (a) The player does not have to stand within the dropping zone when dropping the ball.
- (b) The dropped ball must first strike a part of the course within the dropping zone.
- (c) If the dropping zone is defined by a line, the line is within the dropping zone.
- (d) The dropped ball does not have to come to rest within the dropping zone.
- (e) The dropped ball must be re-dropped if it rolls and comes to rest in a position covered by Rule 20-2c(i-vi).
- (f) The dropped ball may roll nearer the hole than the spot where it first struck a part of the course, provided it comes to rest within two club-lengths of that spot and not into any of the positions covered by (e).
- (g) Subject to the provisions of (e) and (f), the dropped ball may roll and come to rest nearer the hole than:
 - its original position or estimated position (see Rule 20-2b);
 - the nearest point of relief or maximum available relief (Rule 24-2, Rule 25-1 or Rule 25-3); or
 - the point where the original ball last crossed the margin of the water hazard or lateral water hazard (Rule 26-1).

Answer:

Not necessarily.

Although the official wording for the provisions applying to dropping zones appears quite complicated it can be simplified to the following:

- It doesn't matter where you stand when you drop the ball, so long as the ball lands within the dropping zone or on the line bounding the dropping zone.
- After landing, it is permissible for the ball to roll out of the dropping zone and it is also allowed to roll closer to the hole.
- You have to re-drop the ball if it:
 - rolls and comes to rest more than two club-lengths from where it was dropped;
 - rolls into and comes to rest in a hazard;
 - rolls and comes to rest out of bounds;
 - rolls and comes to rest in a position where there is interference by the condition from which relief was taken (e.g. the area of vines between the first and ninth holes).