

## Rule 11 – Teeing Ground

(R & A Decisions on the Rules of Golf 2010 – 2011)

### 11-3 BALL FALLING OFF TEE

If a ball, when **not in play**, falls off a tee or is knocked off a tee by the player in addressing it, it may be re-teeed, **without penalty**. However, if a stroke is made at the ball in these circumstances, whether the ball is moving or not, the stroke counts, but there is no penalty.

#### 11-3/1 Stroke misses ball; ball then accidentally knocked off tee

A player teed his ball within the teeing ground. He made a stroke at the ball but missed it. He addressed the ball again and accidentally knocked it off the tee. What is the ruling?

**A: When the player made a stroke at the ball, it was in play and Rule 11-3 no longer applied. When the ball in play moved after it was addressed, the player incurred a penalty stroke and was obliged to replace the ball (Rule 18-2b).**

#### Related Decision:

**Rule 18-2a/2 Ball Falling Off Tee When Stroke Just Touches it is Picked Up and Re-teeed.**

#### 11-3/3 Original Ball Out of Bounds; Ball Played Under Stroke-and-Distance Procedure Falls Off Tee at Address

A player played his **original ball** out of bounds from the teeing ground. Under Rule 27-1, he teed up another ball. When addressing the ball, he touched it and it fell off the tee. What is the ruling?

**A: There is no penalty, because a teed ball is not in play until a stroke has been made at it (see Definition of “Ball in Play”). The ball may be re-teeed (Rule 11-3).**

#### Related Decision:

**Rule 18-2a/19 Ball Moved Accidentally by Practice Swing Prior to Tee Shot.**

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### STROKE

A stroke is deemed to be the forward movement of the club, not backswing.

**Teeing Ground:** If a player is on the forward movement of his swing and the ball (moves) falls off the tee, he can stop swing, and there is no penalty, and re-tee the ball.

**Course Other Than Tee Ground:** If a player has commenced his swing and the ball moves he incurs a penalty, regardless of stopping or not, and the stroke must count.

**The Secret to Penalty or No-Penalty:** Is that on the teeing ground the ball is not in play until it has been played at.