

Teeing Area, Including Hitting from the Wrong Tees

Your ball is in the teeing area when any part of the ball touches or is above any part of the teeing area.

You may play the ball from a tee placed on the ground or from the ground itself.

Starting a Hole

A player must start each hole by playing a ball from anywhere inside the teeing area (6.1b). When starting a hole, if a player plays a ball from *outside* the teeing area, including

- Hitting from the wrong tee markers on the right hole, or
- Hitting from the correct tee markers, but outside the teeing area, or
- Hitting from a teeing area of the wrong hole

The player incurs a penalty.

Penalty for not starting a hole from the teeing area

The player gets the general penalty (**two penalty strokes**) and *must correct the mistake* by playing a ball from inside the teeing area.

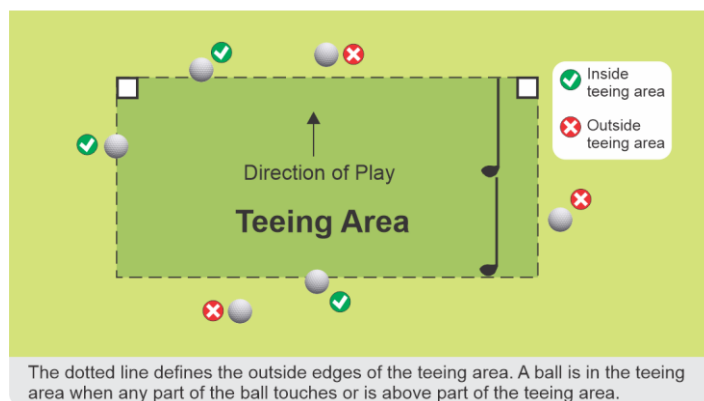
The player is **disqualified** if the mistake is *not corrected*:

- The mistake must be corrected *before* making a stroke to begin another hole or,
- For the final hole of the round, *before* returning his or her scorecard.

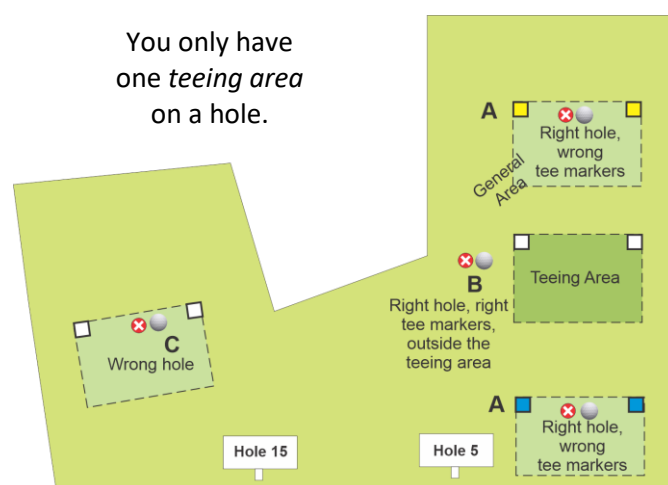
Notes

- The ball played from outside the teeing area is *not in play*.
- That stroke and any more strokes before the mistake is corrected (including strokes made and any penalty strokes solely from playing that ball) *do not count*.

Reference: [Rule 6 - Playing a Hole](#) | [AGA video](#) | [Video 2](#)



The teeing area is a two-club deep rectangle measured from the tee-markers you are playing your round from. You can stand outside the teeing area as long as your ball is within the teeing area.



“Teeing area” is where you start each hole. It is one of the five defined areas of a golf course (the others are the “general area,” “all penalty areas,” “all bunkers,” and the “putting green of the hole you are playing”).

“Teeing ground” was a term that was used in the Rules of Golf through the end of 2018.

“Tee box” is a vernacular term that came about in golf’s early days when golfers teed off from little piles of sand. The sand was typically provided in a box near the teeing area. Golf tees were first patented in 1889.

Most courses that use red, white, and blue markers use that order for progressively longer yardage.

Caution: Some don’t.