



Golf Etiquette Policy Statement

Etiquette is a word that's often heard in relation to golf, more so than with any other sport, but it's not just about manners.

The guidelines for good golf etiquette are in place for several very important reasons: many of them relate to the safety of golfers; many relate to pace of play (which helps keep the game enjoyable); and other rules of golf etiquette relate to maintaining the quality of the golf course. In other words, golf etiquette is an essential part of the game and it is something that newcomers to the game often learn as they go – on the course, when playing with more experienced golfers. If you are new to the game, or just need to brush up on your golf etiquette, here are some basic rules of the road that will help keep the game enjoyable for you and those around you.

- * Do not swing your club until you know that others in your group are at a safe distance. Likewise, keep your distance when others are swinging.
- * When practicing your swing, never swing in the direction of another player. There may be pebbles, twigs or other matter in the grass that could fly up and injure a playing partner.
- * Do not hit the ball until you are certain that the group ahead of you is out of range. This is particularly important even after the group ahead has finished putting but has not left the area of the green.
- * If your ball does appear to be headed toward another player or group, give them a warning by yelling out "FORE", an internationally recognized alert.
- * Observe the safety suggestions posted in golf carts and drive safely. Golf etiquette requires keeping your cart off the grass as much as possible.
- * Never throw clubs in anger. In addition to being rude, it could also be dangerous.

Maintain a Good Pace

- * Keep the round moving by being prepared to hit your shot when it is your turn. You probably don't like waiting on other groups – don't make other groups wait on you.
- * The player who is away hits first in a group. However, in friendly matches (as opposed to tournament play), this rule can be ignored in favour of "ready golf" – players hit as they are ready. All players should agree to "ready golf" before it is put into effect.
- * Do not spend too much time looking for a lost ball, particularly if there is a group behind you ready to play. If you insist on taking the full five minutes

allotted in the rulebook to look for lost balls, golf etiquette says wave up the group behind you to allow them to play through.

- * Always try to keep pace with the group ahead of you. If space opens in front of you, allow a faster group to play through.
- * When two players in a cart hit to opposite sides of a hole, drive to the first ball and drop off that player with his/her club, then drive to the second ball. After both players have hit, meet up farther down the hole.
- * When walking from your cart to your ball, take a couple of clubs with you. Taking only one club, then having to return to the cart to retrieve a different club, is a huge time waster.
- * Always leave the putting green as soon as your group has finished putting. Scoring should be done on the next tee.

Be Kind to the Course

- * Observe cart rules. Sometimes the club will post “cart path only” signs; all par 3’s are “cart paths only”; white fairway markers show at what point all carts must return to the paths; observe the 90-degree rule.
- * Keep carts away from greens and hazards and off mounds. The wheels on carts can damage these sensitive areas.
- * Repair your divots in the fairway.
- * Repair your ball marks on the green.
- * Always rake sand bunkers after hitting to erase your footprints and damage to the area where your ball was.
- * Avoid taking a divot on a practice swing.

And a Few More Golf Etiquette Hints

- * Quiet, please! Never talk during another player’s swing.
- * Do not yell out following a shot. Even if boisterous behavior doesn’t bother your playing partners, there are other people on the course who may be within earshot.
- * Be aware of your shadow on the putting green. Don’t stand in a place that causes your shadow to be cast across another player or that player’s putting line.
- * Never walk through a playing partner’s putting line. Your footprints might alter the path of a partner’s putt. Step over the line, or walk around (behind) the partner’s ball.