

Etiquette - behaviour on the Course

Selection of main points from the Rules of Golf

Introduction

The Etiquette of golf represents **guidelines** which, when followed, provide maximum enjoyment for all players, based on the over-riding principle of showing consideration to others on the course at all times

Spirit of the game

For the most part golf is played without an umpire/referee - it relies on the integrity of players, who should demonstrate **courtesy and sportsmanship** and **abide by the rules** at all times in a competition or in a casual round.

Safety

Players should ensure that no-one is standing close by or in a position to be hit by a club, the ball or stones/pebbles/divots, etc. Players should not play until the group in front is out of range. If a ball is struck such that danger to others might inadvertently occur, an immediate warning shout (normally "**fore!**") should be made.

Consideration for others

Do not disturb other players by moving, talking etc. Do not take active electronic devices, especially **mobile phones**, on the course. Do not stand close to others, or directly behind the ball or the hole, when a player is about to play. **Do not tee up** until it is your turn to play.

Do not stand on, or cast a shadow over, **the line of an opponents putt**.

Pace of play

Play at a good pace, **keep up with the group in front**. If you lose a hole and delay the group behind, **invite the group behind to play through, no matter how many players in the flight**.

Be ready to play as soon as it is your turn. **Place bags/carts** in a position such that quick movement in the direction of the next shot / next green is possible. **Leave the putting green immediately** once players in the group have holed out.

Lost balls

If it is possible that a ball is lost outside a hazard, **play a provisional ball**. If it is apparent that a ball might not be easily found, let the group behind play through - **do not wait until the allowed 5 minutes has passed**.

Care of the course

Rake bunkers after use - even if the marks were made by others. **Replace your divots**, or those of others if you find them. **Repair your pitch marks**, and those of others if you find them. Do not place bags or trolleys on or adjacent to the greens. Place the flagstick down onto the green gently to avoid damage. **Replace flagsticks** properly before leaving the green. **Do not lean on your putter** whilst waiting on a green.