

GOLF ETIQUETTE

Golf is a dignified sport. One very wise man said, “Not every man is a gentleman and not every woman is a lady”. Golf separates the gentlemen from the men and the ladies from the women. Appropriate behaviour on the golf circuit must therefore match this dignity.

It is on the golf course where lifelong friendships are formed, business deals struck but most of all, a mutual respect for fellow golfers for a game well played or bad shots dissected and shared over a laugh and a beer.

Golf does not require throwing punches or beating up your opponent. It is the opposite, in fact, where a handshake is given as a sign of respect for a shot well executed, a pat on the shoulder a sign of great effort and better players don't trample on the others. They often share tips and on how to improve - like true gentlemen and real ladies.

Golf dissolves the divide between borders, races, religions and creed. Wherever in the world they meet, golfers warm to each other no matter where they come from or what they do for a living. Ingrained in them is a global set of rules called **GOLF ETIQUETTE**.

- **GOLF ETIQUETTE** is how you respect and treat other golfers both on the green and off it.
- **GOLF ETIQUETTE** is how you respect and handle your equipment, how you regard and respect the game itself and how you respect the course where you create divots on.
- **GOLF ETIQUETTE** includes how you silently appreciate the uncelebrated many who work hard behind the scenes, getting up before dawn, whatever weather it may be, to ensure that the course is ready for you when you get on it.

If you abide by these rules, you are sure to have a lovely time and allow other players to enjoy themselves as well. You will also have an enthusiastic crew behind the scenes who will continue to prepare for you the very best course on the Estate to play on.

BEFORE THE GAME

1 Dress for golf.

Self respect is reflected in how you present yourself. Nothing speaks louder about your attitude to the game than a player not dressed for the part or looking unkempt.

APPROPRIATE GOLF WEAR is:

- Collared polo shirts
- Shorts – no shorter than mid-thigh
- Trousers – full length only
- A belt is essential
- Socks with shoes
- Soft spike golf shoes

NOT APPROPRIATE GOLF WEAR is:

- Tee-shirts or cut off tops
- Tops showing cleavage or mid-drift or belly buttons
- Jeans
- Beltless trousers or shorts
- Shorts – shorter than mid-thigh
- Trousers – cut off, fringed hems
- Slippers, sandals or open-toed shoes

2 Show up early.

No matter who you are golfing with, be at least 15 to 30 minutes before your booked tee time.

Being early gives you enough time to check in and be ready to go by tee time. There will be to warm up and get in a few practice putts on our practice green. Show up late and you feel rushed to get through the first few holes and should be very embarrassed for making others late as well.

You will certainly leave a bad impression if you are late to play with your potential clients or your bosses have to wait for you.

Never be late.

3 Decide who tees off first.

Being the first to tee off can be nerve-wrecking especially when playing a new course. Whatever method you choose to decide the order, in any group there has to be one person who has to tee off first. No matter who tees off first getting the game going on time is important.

DURING THE GAME

1 Be quiet.

Silence is golden when others are hitting the ball.

It is rude and incredibly distracting for anyone taking a shot when someone is talking during this intense moment of focus.

2 Stand still.

When someone is up to putt, as a courtesy, do not move or make any noise. It is distracting for the player and may break concentration.

Just stay still and quiet.

3 Turn off all cell phones.

A ring during someone's swing is a very bad thing.

Time on the course is time away from the stresses of daily life, work and commitments. Put it in silent mode or leave it behind.

4 Be aware of your team mates.

All players who are not playing at that exact moment must stand still and stay silent. Pay attention to the other golfers you are playing with so you know when they are hitting the ball.

Pause your conversation because you can always resume it after the shot has been taken.

5 Be courteous of other teams.

While driving your cart or walking, be conscious of other players hitting the ball. It is only polite to stop and wait for the shot to be taken before resuming your travel.

6 Know your skill level.

Choose the correct tee box for your skill level. Make sure you tee off from the tee box appropriate for your skill level.

Ask for the course's chart if you don't know.

7 Know your pace.

Don't be the turtle who causes a traffic-jam for the hares.

You should take your time during a game but when you are moving at a slow pace, you will cause play to be backed up.

If you are a slow player, it is only courteous of you to allow following players to play through.

8 Know where to stand.

Pay attention to where you stand while others are golfing.

If you stand too close to someone playing, it can distract them. Do not pace or hover around them. Think about where you stand.

Make sure you are not in the way.

9 Respect the course.

Be considerate.

It is normal for divots and pitch marks to be left after a swing but be sure to have the courtesy to repair any damage to the fairway or green that you may have caused.

If you leave any marks from your shoes, repair them too.

The damage you caused on the fairway or green and left un-repaired may upset the shots of the players following after you. Do not mess up their shots.

10 Help others look for their missing balls.

One shouldn't spend too much time looking for missing balls but it helps if others assist in the search. Two sets of eyes are better than one.

11 Note other player's putting lines.

Pay attention while others are putting. Watch where you stand.

Stay away from your fellow player's putting lines. If you happen to be close enough, volunteer to mark the ball for your fellow player.

12 Not cool to lose your cool.

Losing the game can be frustrating, but losing your cool is significantly worse.

Most people head to the golf course for relaxation. It is always a beautiful day on the course when you are playing the game with friends. It is not worth spoiling the day for everyone by throwing a wobbly - even if it is just with nobody but yourself.

Just think positively and work on improving your game for next time.

AFTER THE GAME

Whether you have been a gentleman or lady during play, don't spoil it by not being one after the game.

Shake everyone's hand.

Once the game is over, win or lose, it is proper etiquette to shake each player's hand and thank them for an enjoyable game, no matter how they played.

Stay for a drink with the other players.

It is often said that breaking bread together and partaking in drink fosters trust and friendship.

Once the game is finished, it is typical for players to have a drink and a bite to eat in the clubhouse. This is the time to share moments of your game and laugh over bad hits, missed shots, or celebrate excellent shots executed over food and drink.

The wonderful sport we call GOLF

A sport could be either a Gentleman's Game played by Ruffians or a Ruffian's Game played by Gentlemen.

GOLF is one of the few that is a **Gentleman's Game played by Gentlemen.**

Win or lose, golf is a bonding game. It brings people together with no ill feelings over who loses or who wins. It is always a win-win when you play the game with the people who share your love and respect for the game, nature and the great outdoors - and the day is always beautiful.

There are no losers in golf. Only winners.