

BASIC ETIQUETTE YOU NEED TO KNOW (AND PRACTICE)



Golf is a game that requires a lot of concentration. If you are trying to make a putt, or hit your tee shot into a narrow Fairway, it will be much more difficult if someone is laughing, rattling their clubs, or running around the tee or green.

Golf etiquette is an extremely important part of the game of golf. The **etiquette** golfer's show to one another out on the course is one of the things that distinguish golf from all other sports. **But what is etiquette?**

Etiquette has to do with manners. It is through the courtesy we show to other people that we communicate our respect for the game of golf itself and to every other fellow golfer.

Shhh!

Quiet is required on the golf course. Golf requires lots of concentration, and even if the people in your immediate group don't seem to be bothered, there are other groups all around you. So keep your voice down. Walk, don't Run.

Safety and Security

The first and foremost rule of golf and golf etiquette is safety. This rule applies to beginners and experienced players alike. Without some good common sense and a notion of how hard golf balls and clubs are, a golf course can be a very dangerous place. So here are some safety rules to always follow on the golf course:

- If you hit a stray shot shout 'FORE' in a loud voice to allow other golfers to protect themselves
- If you hear a shout of 'FORE' protect yourself immediately especially your head
- Do not stand in front of any golfer who is about to take a shot or practice stroke
- Only use a Mobile Phone on the course if there is a Safety or Security issue
- Programme the following numbers into your Mobile Phone
- Pro / Starter's Office (01475 636834) / Clubhouse (01475 631001) / Community Warden (08000131701)

Pace of Play

If experienced golfers have to wait too long in between shots they get impatient and they lose their momentum. So here are some things you can do to maintain a good pace of play:

- Don't wait until your turn to start thinking about what club you will hit, or whether to go over the burn or lay up to it -- be ready in advance.
- As you approach the green determine in which direction the next tee is located and leave your clubs on that side of the green.
- Keep up with the group ahead of you. As they leave the green you should be ready to hit up to the green. Don't worry about how far ahead you are of the group behind you, focus on staying a reasonable distance from the group ahead.
- If you are marking a scorecard for a fellow player, mark it after each hole has been completed but when you have cleared the green
- You will find that experienced golfers will play at a quicker pace than you, so let them play through and you can continue at your own pace.
- 5 minutes is the maximum time you are allowed to look for a lost ball

Dress Code

The Professional at Gourrock GC supplies a wide range of golfing attire – call in at the shop for advice about golf attire (and equipment).

- Classic dress for junior boys: slacks or tailored shorts, collared sport shirt, golf shoes.
- Classic dress for junior girls: knee-length skirt, slacks or tailored shorts, collared sport shirt, golf shoes.
- Jeans, collar-less shirts and football colours are not permitted on the course or in the clubhouse.

Before You Play

- Pre-book a tee time with the Pro / Starter's office and be prompt (but no more than **30 mins** before tee time).
- Call and cancel your tee time if you can't make it.
- Boys should use the Junior Locker Room, girls should use the Ladies Locker Room.
- **Always** report to the Pro / Starter's office before you head to the tee.
- Feel free to use the practice facilities before you tee off – but always be ready to meet your tee time.

BASIC ETIQUETTE YOU NEED TO (KNOW AND PRACTICE) (cont'd)



On the Practice Green

The practice green is part of the golf course and good behaviour is expected here too. No noisy running around or putting up to holes that are being used by a fellow golfer.

In the Practice Nets

Once again, good etiquette **must** be displayed if you want to use the practice nets – especially those relating to safety – **do not** stand too close to a fellow golfer as he hits practice shots into the nets.

The Practice Green and Practice Nets can only be used by Junior players during **Junior Playing Times** (See Fixture Card).

On the Teeing Area

Junior Players should play from the appropriate Teeing Area, as follows –

- Blue Tees (forward tees for brand new Junior golfers).
- Red Tees (Ladies and Juniors Competition play (h'cap 19 – 40)).
- Yellow Tees (Gents normal play and Juniors Competition play (h'cap 0 – 18)).

Never stand in front of the golfer who is about to play – stand behind and to the side of the player out of his peripheral vision. Also, remember to stand still and be quiet before and during their swing.

On the Fairway

If you create a divot on the golf course, make an excellent job of repairing it by putting it back in the original spot and standing it in. If you are using a trolley, make sure you observe any restrictions on the course. Litter should never be left on the course or in any part of the grounds. Put all litter in the bins provided.

In the Bunker or Water Hazard

A bunker is a **hazard** and you are not allowed to ground your golf club in a hazard – if you do (even by mistake) you must penalise yourself 1 shot and report it immediately to your playing partner(s) / scorer. Once you have played your shot and are clear of the bunker you must prepare the bunker for the next player with the rake provided. The rake should then be gently placed back inside the back of the bunker.

Most burns and lakes are also **hazards**. You can choose to play from the water – again without grounding the club - but this is never usually a good idea. Take a 1 shot penalty and drop the ball at the spot it entered the water hazard.

On the Putting Green

Always repair any plug-marks made by your ball when it landed on the green. Indeed, look around the green and check for any un-repaired marks that may have been left by others. Encourage your playing partners to do the same.

Do not step on the 'ball lines' of any of your playing partners as this may affect their putt to the hole.

If attending the pin for a fellow player, do this at arm's length away from the hole – this will ensure that the area around the hole is maintained in top condition.

Mark your ball as required on the green and only pick your marker back up after you have replaced your golf ball.

On the 18th Green

Immediately you have completed your game, remove your cap (if you are wearing one) and shake hands with all the players in your match – and thank them for the game.

And Finally, Cheating

If you have an urge to cheat – you are playing the **wrong** game!