
Tip of the Week: Golf Etiquette

September 1, 2025

Golf etiquette refers to a set of rules and practices designed to make the game of golf safer and more enjoyable for golfers and to minimize possible damage to golf equipment and courses. Many of these practices are not part of the formal rules but golfers are customarily expected to observe them. Here are a few tips.

DIVOTS, PITCH MARKS AND BUNKERS

Divots and pitch mark on greens should be repaired. Bunkers should be raked the sand smooth again after a shot.

WALKING

During play golfers should remain stationary while others play their shots. Players should be still and remain silent during a fellow player's pre-shot routine and subsequent shot.

GOLF CARTS AND EQUIPMENT

Golfers should observe the "90-degree rule": make a 90 degree turn off the path toward the fairway to a given ball, and return straight back to the path, not along the path of greatest convenience. Golfers should keep the noise of backing up to a minimum and always set the park brake before disembarking.

HONOUR

Traditionally, the player with the best gross score on the previous hole tees off first. In informal games one can play "ready golf" and not wait for the best score on the hole to tee up first. With the update to the rules in 2019, ready golf is now encouraged in all stroke play formats.

PUTTING LINES

Golfers should note each player's putting line, and avoid stepping on it as they play on the green or stand on a line of sight, that is, in the line of sight either ahead or behind a player who is attempting to putt. Players should not stand close to or directly behind the ball, or directly behind the hole, when a player is about to play. In the event that your ball is in another player's line, it is important to mark your ball's position, and only then remove it (pick it up) from the green. A golfer should also avoid stepping close to the hole.