

# Golf Etiquette and Place of Play Guidelines

## Preamble

- ✓ The foundation of golf etiquette is based on mutual respect among golfers and for the course.
- ✓ The game is best enjoyed when golfers and course staff share a mutual understanding of and practice good etiquette.
- ✓ The expected pace of play for 9 holes of golf is 2 hours and 15 minutes. A general rule of thumb is - keep up to the group in front of you.
- ✓ In recreational golf, formal etiquette practices such as turn taking can be modified to ensure that a reasonable pace of play can be maintained. This practice is commonly referred to as “ready golf.”

The following guidelines will help to support an enjoyable and efficient round of golf.

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## Getting Started

- Arrive at the course at least 15 minutes before your scheduled tee time.
- Be ready to tee off when given “the go ahead” by the course starter. Whoever **in your group** is ready first, **goes first**.
- Carry an extra ball and tee with you in case you need to hit a provisional ball (that is, when you are not sure that the first ball you hit will be found or is playable).
- Watch your playing partners tee off. This practice increases the chances of finding balls that don't land on the fairway.

## Looking for Lost Balls

- Help playing partners look for their lost balls.
- When it makes sense, hit your own shot before helping to look for another player's ball.
- Limit your search time to 2 minutes.
- Adjust the time you take to look for balls to maintain or re-establish the expected pace of play.

## On The Fairway

- After your group has hit their tee shots, proceed **toward your own ball**. Be conscious of where your ball is in relation to the other players in your group and play your next shot when it is safe to do so.
- While you wait for your turn, assess your shot and choose your club.
- Once you have executed your shot, again make your way toward your own ball and repeat the process.

## Playing Out the Hole (on and around the green)

- Once on the green, leave your cart on the side of the green closest to the next hole.
- Repair your divots and mark your ball if it is in the path of another ball.
  - Ball markers are placed behind the ball in relation to the hole.
- Employ ready-golf principles to putt-out/complete the hole.
  - Remove the flag or leave it in (manage preferences efficiently).

- Whoever is ready, goes first.
- It is okay to putt twice in a row if a ball stops just short of or past the hole!
- Once everyone has putt out, proceed quickly to the next tee box.
  - Record your scores on our way to or when you arrive, never on the green.

### **Other Actions to Maintain or Correct the Pace of Play**

#### **On a Par 3**

- When 2 groups are on the same tee box on a Par 3, the first team should play until everyone is on the green and then wave the second team on to hit their tee shots.
- Once each player on the second team has hit once, the first team can play out the hole.
  - When this play resumes, *be sure to play your own ball!*

#### **Slow Play in General**

- When there is a significant gap between your team and the team ahead of you (e.g. your team is on the tee and there is no other group anywhere on the hole) and/or the team behind you is routinely waiting to play their next shot, one of the following two actions is often exercised to reduce the stress that slow play can induce
  1. Invite the group behind you, play through
  2. The team behind might ask to play through
- Seasoned golfers have a good sense of when and how to respectfully let a group play through or ask to play through.
- If you are not sure how to execute such an action or request, seek the guidance of the course marshal.

Resources:

<https://golfkingdoms.com/golf-guides/golf-etiquette/>