



# GOLF ETIQUETTE



## **PLAYING THE GAME WITH RESPECT AND PRIDE**

Golf is different from most other sports. There are no referees following every group. There are no umpires watching every shot. Instead, golf relies on something more important — honesty, respect, and personal responsibility.

Etiquette is not about strict rules designed to catch you out. It is about understanding how your behaviour affects others and taking pride in being a respectful golfer. The habits you form as a golfer will stay with you for life.

This guide explains what is expected of golfers and why it matters.

### **RESPECT FOR THE COURSE**

The golf course does not look after itself. Greenkeepers work hard every day to keep fairways smooth, greens true and bunkers consistent. Every player has a responsibility to protect their work.

When you take a divot from the fairway, it should always be replaced carefully or filled with sand and seed mix if available. Press it down gently with your foot so it can recover properly. An unrepaired divot affects the next player and damages the quality of the course.

On the greens, pitch marks must be repaired immediately. Use a pitch repairer correctly by pushing the edges inwards rather than lifting upwards. Once repaired, lightly tap the area flat with your putter. A smooth green benefits everyone.

After playing from a bunker, take a moment to rake the sand properly. Remove footprints and club marks completely and leave the rake where the club instructs. Leaving a bunker unraked is unfair and inconsiderate.

Looking after the course shows respect not just for the club, but for fellow members.

## RESPECT FOR OTHER PLAYERS

Golf is usually played in groups of three or four (never more than four). That means your behaviour affects others for four hours at a time.

When another player is preparing to hit, you should stand still and remain quiet. Avoid sudden movements or standing in their line of sight. Even small distractions can affect concentration.

Position yourself safely. Stand behind the player hitting or well to the side. Never stand too close or directly in front.

Mobile phones should be on silent, and conversations should stop while shots are being played. Golf values concentration and courtesy.

Being aware of others is one of the simplest and most important parts of etiquette.

## KEEPING A GOOD PACE OF PLAY

Few things frustrate golfers more than slow play. Keeping up with the group in front is one of the most important responsibilities you have on the course.

You should begin thinking about your shot while others are playing. When it is your turn, be ready with your club selected. Walk at a good pace between shots and move directly to your ball rather than wandering.

In casual golf, “ready golf” is encouraged. If it is safe and you are prepared, you may play even if it is not strictly your turn. In competitions or matches, however, you should follow the correct order unless advised otherwise.

Playing efficiently shows consideration for everyone behind you.

Also, consider where you place your golf bag when on the green. Your bag should also be placed on the side nearest the path to the next tee.

## HONESTY AND INTEGRITY

Golf is built on trust. You are responsible for your own score, and honesty is expected at all times.

Every stroke counts. That includes missed shots, penalty strokes, and accidental contacts. If you are unsure about a rule, ask a playing partner or consult an official. Never ignore a mistake.

The ball should be played as it lies. You may not improve your lie by moving grass, pressing the ground down, or nudging the ball into a better position unless the rules allow relief. Small acts of dishonesty damage your reputation.

The most respected golfers are not always the lowest scorers — they are the most honest players.

## SAFETY COMES FIRST

Golf involves swinging clubs and hitting hard balls over long distances. Safety must always come before competition.

Before swinging, check that no one is within range of your club. Always be aware of your surroundings. If your shot is heading towards another group, shout “FORE!” loudly and clearly to warn them.

Never hit a shot if the group ahead is still within range. Waiting a moment is always better than risking injury.

A safe golfer is a responsible golfer.

## **BEHAVIOUR AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE AND PRACTICE AREAS**

Your conduct does not begin and end on the first tee. You represent the golf club throughout the club.

On the driving range, remain behind the hitting line and never collect balls while others are swinging. On the practice green, avoid damaging the surface and respect any restrictions on chipping.

Inside the clubhouse, behave with maturity. Follow the club's dress code and remove hats if required. Speak politely to staff and members. Good manners matter just as much off the course as on it.

## **DRESS CODE AND PRESENTATION**

How you present yourself reflects your attitude towards the club.

On course: Members are expected to wear appropriate golf attire such as a collared shirt, tailored shorts or trousers, and golf shoes with soft spikes. Denim wear, sports jerseys, sports shorts, tracksuits, or other casual clothing are not suitable unless specifically allowed.

In the Clubhouse: Neat casual dress is essential in the clubhouse. Respectable denim is acceptable in the clubhouse provided it is not faded or torn. Appropriate footwear must be worn at all times in the clubhouse. Golf shoes may be worn in the clubhouse surrounds and locker rooms.

Taking pride in your appearance shows that you take pride in being part of the club.

## **COMPETITIONS AND SPORTSMANSHIP**

Competitions bring additional responsibility.

Arrive early enough to warm up properly and check in with organisers. During the round, mark scorecards carefully and pay attention to the scores you are recording. Before signing a card, ensure it is correct. Once submitted, it cannot be changed.

Winning should be met with humility. Losing should be handled with dignity. Congratulate your playing partners and thank organisers.

Golf teaches resilience. Not every round will go well, but your attitude should always remain positive and respectful.

## **BECOMING A ROLE MODEL**

As a member of Nenagh Golf Club, younger players will look up to you. Leadership is not about being the best golfer; it is about setting the right example.

Help others search for lost balls. Offer encouragement after difficult shots. Follow procedures properly. Treat volunteers and officials with respect.

The habits you form now will shape the culture golf for years to come.

## BEING A MEMBER IS A RESPONSIBILITY

Being part of a golf club is a responsibility. Many people work behind the scenes to maintain the course, organise competitions and support member development.

In return, members golfers are expected to:

- Respect the course
- Respect other players
- Follow the rules
- Represent the club with pride

Etiquette is not about fear of punishment. It is about choosing to do the right thing even when no one is watching.

Golf is a game you can play for life. If you develop strong habits of respect, honesty, and responsibility now, you will carry them with you throughout your golfing life.

Play with integrity.

Play with consideration.

Play with pride.





