

# What Is Ready Golf?

Ready golf means playing when you're ready, not strictly by who is farthest from the hole. It encourages players to take their shot when it's safe and makes sense, even if it's not technically their turn.

It is most often used in stroke play, which is how most recreational golf is played. In match play, where the order of play can influence strategy, traditional turn-taking is still expected.

## Why Ready Golf Is Important

### It keeps the pace moving

Nobody enjoys a five-hour round. When players wait unnecessarily or take too long to prepare, it slows down everyone behind them. Ready golf helps the group move efficiently.

### It eases pressure

You don't have to constantly watch who is away or feel like you're holding up the group. If you're ready, go ahead and hit.

### It supports rhythm and flow

Too much waiting can throw off tempo and focus. Ready golf keeps everyone in a better rhythm from hole to hole.

### It builds awareness

Playing ready golf means you're paying attention to your surroundings, your playing partners, and your own pace. That awareness leads to better golf and a smoother group dynamic.

## How to Play Ready Golf the Right Way

### Think ahead

While walking or riding to your ball, start making decisions. What club do you need? What's the yardage? What's the wind doing? That way, when it's your turn, you're ready.

### Hit when safe, not just when it's your turn

If someone else is still preparing and you're good to go, play your shot. Just make sure no one is in danger and give a quick heads-up if needed.

## **Putt when ready**

If you're already set and someone else is reading their putt, go ahead and putt. A quick "Mind if I go?" is all it takes.

## **Tee off if you're prepared**

If you're ready on the next tee and others are still cleaning clubs or walking over, go ahead and hit. It keeps things moving without rushing anyone.

## **Keep pace with the group**

Ready golf doesn't mean speeding ahead or rushing shots. It simply helps maintain a steady pace for the group as a whole.

# **The Unwritten Rules of Ready Golf**

## **Communicate early**

Let your group know at the start of the round that you're playing ready golf. Most people will be relieved and happy about it.

## **Respect routines**

If someone insists on playing in traditional order or feels more comfortable going first, that's okay. Ready golf is a tool, not a rule.

## **Safety first**

Never hit if there's any chance of hitting into another player or group. Being ready is good. Being careless is not.

## **Be considerate**

If someone is clearly about to hit, don't jump in front of them. Just stay alert and be respectful of others' rhythm.

## **When to Use Ready Golf**

Ready golf is ideal for casual weekend rounds, club outings, scrambles, and busy days when pace of play can easily slow down. It's not required, but it's always encouraged when everyone is comfortable with it.

You'll often hear marshals or course staff suggest it on slower days. Every group that plays ready golf helps the whole course stay on schedule.

## Final Thoughts

Ready golf is one of the simplest ways to improve everyone's experience on the course. It helps you play smarter, keeps things moving, and removes a lot of unnecessary waiting from the game.

It's not about rushing or skipping steps. It's about being prepared, paying attention, and keeping golf fun for the entire group.

Next time you're ready to swing and your buddy is still checking his GPS, go ahead and take the shot. That's ready golf. And it makes the game better for everyone.