



Golf Etiquette



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WHAT TO WEAR TO THE COURSE

Surprised we started with this topic? **Well, come on we are ladies after all.** When starting something new and daunting it's important to show up dressed for success instead of being told to go in the pro shop and buy something suitable for golf.

These days proper golf attire is shifting and changing, especially on the lady's front. In general, most courses will ask for a collared shirt and shorts or a skirt of appropriate length. Public courses are much more lenient, and some even allow jeans. Tennis outfits tend to be a little too light on the coverage to really be appropriate for golf, so shoot for something with a collar and shorts or a skirt that gets closer to your knees when you are starting out.

Always check the rules for the course you are going to play, there is a lot of variety!

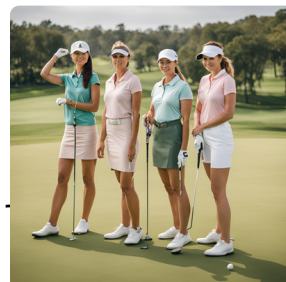
SOME EXAMPLES OF MODERN GOLF ATTIRE FOR LADIES:



SKIRTS / GOLF DRESS
PANTS



SLEEVELESS WITH CAPRIS



VARIETY OF SHIRTS
AND SHORTS

PATIENCE AND SPEED

GOLF IS A TEST OF THE EMOTIONS

Patience

Be patient with yourself on the course. Learning the game is hard and can be immensely frustrating even for the best players.

Ask more experienced players questions about rules and how to play.

Be humble. Smile. Keep your head up.

Have patience for others in the group, you will find certain personalities flair on the course.

Speed

No matter if you are a beginner or more experienced player, nobody likes to play with someone who takes an excessive amount of time on every shot.

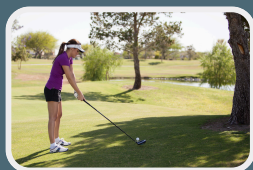
You need to keep up with the group in front of you. Picture your shot, take one practice swing and hit it. If you are struggling and learning, don't be afraid to pick your ball up and move forward with your group.

ON THE COURSE

Knowing where to stand and where to walk are key to not getting in other golfers way, as well as what order to play your shot within the group.

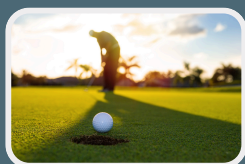
On The Tee and Fairways

Stand to the right of a right handed golfer for both curtesy and safety. Try not to stand in front of them as that's also ill-advised for safety.



On The Greens

It's considered rude - and against the rules of golf - to stand directly behind or in the line of sight of another player when they are putting on the green. **Stand a minimum 10 feet away when waiting your turn.**



Order of Play

On the first tee it does not matter who starts off. Formal golf etiquette on subsequent holes has the **lowest score teeing off first on the next hole.**

In match play events this becomes more important, but in casual play with friends we like to say **'ready golf' is the best way to play, for speed and fun.** Meaning, if you are ready to hit go for it.

Order of Play Cont...

If you are in a group with strangers or more serious golfers, the order of play during a hole is the furthest person from the hole always hits first or is considered 'away.' This is true from the fairway until the last putt is holed out.

On the green, you use a ball marker that you put directly behind your ball to mark the spot. Occasionally it will be in the way and a player may ask if you want to go ahead and putt out first or move your marker a putter head length to one side or the other.

DRIVING THE CART



See the photo to the left? That will get you booted off the course pretty quickly.

It seems like driving a golf cart would be pretty simple, but there are some important nuances and etiquette!

It's also FUN though....

In general, it's best to stick to the designated cart paths. Implementing what we call the "90-degree rule" is a great guideline. That means when you are on the cart path and get to be even with where your ball is on the course, make a 90 degree turn to go over to your ball. This reduces the wear and tear of driving the length of the hole in your cart.

You absolutely CANNOT drive on any putting green or tee. A lot of damage can be done to the greens by a golf cart. Most courses also do not want you to drive within 50 yards of the green and will often have directional signs for the carts to turn back to the path, or a geo fence electronic system that will beep at you.

Every course is a little different. Some don't want carts driving in the rough. It's helpful to ask the starter or cart barn workers the general rules of the course you are playing. Be wary of hills and driving on slopes, it is also surprisingly easy to flip a cart over on a golf course and can be very dangerous.

REPAIRING DIVOTS AND BALL MARKS



When you hit a shot in the fairway it is common that your club takes some of the turf and makes a divot. If it is a piece of grass that's replaceable pick it up and stomp it back down like Julia Roberts on the polo field in *Pretty Woman*.



If not, it is proper to use the sand/seed mix that is available on the side of any golf cart or if you are walking to try and bring the grass in on the sides with your clubhead.



When your ball hits the green it often makes a dent or a mark that **disrupts the grass called a 'ball mark'.**

You will see the little metal or plastic divot tools that are available on the first tee of most courses. To repair a ball mark, use the tool to bring in grass from the sides of the mark and fill in the mark. **Do not lift up from the bottom and bring up the dirt.**

FUN FACT:



A poorly fixed mark can take 2 weeks to heal instead of 2 days!!

THE BUNKERS



So, you've hit your ball into a dreaded sand trap or bunker next to the green. Learning how to play a shot out of a bunker we cover in one of the other Birdie Steps Basics documents. Here we just let you know that you cannot touch your club to the sand before striking the ball, or it's a penalty! It's called **"Grounding the Club."**



When you've hit your shot, the proper etiquette is to grab a rake and make sure to **leave the sand in the condition you found it**, raking smooth the divots and any footsteps.

DANGER ZONE...FORE!!!

One thing you do not want to do is get hit by a wayward golf ball! Not only is it important to know where to stand for safety but also to alert others of danger.

If you are out on the course and you hear wild golfers yelling “**FORE**” at the top of their lungs, that is the universal sign to duck!

If you hit a ball or a ball is hit towards you it is polite to yell “**FORE**” as a heads up that danger is headed that way.

Some courses have more holes right next to each other and this can happen a lot, so keep your eyes wide open out there, it's an adventure.



F.A.S.T

Here's an easy acronym to live by and a cheat code for golf etiquette **FAST**:

- F** = Fix ball marks and divots
- A** = Appropriate apparel for golf
- S** = Stand to the side for safety
- T** = Turn - know when it's your turn



F. It's important to know how to fix a ball mark properly on the green - A quick Google search or a look on the USGA website or YouTube can show you how to bring the grass in from the sides instead of pulling up the dirt.

A. Public vs private courses will have vastly different rules on clothing, and each with a lot of variety. Look online or call and ask in the pro shop if you are unsure. Better yet just stick to the basics of a collared shirt and proper length shorts/pants/ skirt and you are good to go anywhere.

S. Always stand to the side and not in front of golfers for safety! As well as on the greens so you are not in other golfers' lines.

T. During a hole, if you are the furthest away it is your turn to play. If your group wants to play 'ready golf' then it's acceptable to just hit when you are ready. Make sure you establish this first in case you are playing with sticklers. On each tee box, the player with the lowest score on the previous hole should hit first, but this often also falls to ready golf in casual play.