

RESPECTING OUR COURSE

Golf is one of the few sports in which players are responsible for reporting any break of a rule to fellow competitors or a rules official. Knowing the rules and etiquette of the game allow players to maintain a good pace of play, show respect for the course and fellow competitors, as well as enjoy the game as it should be played.

Here are some obvious things you should and shouldn't do to respect the club and the other golfers around you:

1. Don't talk while someone is playing their shot

A no-brainer, as you're going to interrupt your fellow golfer's concentration.

2. Don't move while someone is playing their shot

Please see 1. above.

3. Learn how to repair a pitchmark... dear heaven, please learn how to repair a pitchmark

There are dozens of videos on YouTube, so even if you think you do it the right way, why not go and double-check. Just because you don't play often enough or hardly ever hit greens from long range, there is no excuse for not repairing a pitchmark.

4. Rake bunkers and rake them properly

Simply dragging the rake behind you as you exit is not good enough... and if that's how you do it and you complain when you later find your ball in a sandy footprint, consider it karma. We all end up in bunkers and there's nothing worse than finding your errant shot doubly punished, because some idiot regards it as beneath him to rake the sand.

5. Let other golfers through when you're holding them up

This is the biggest gripe of golfers today, because it can turn a three-and-a-half hour round into one lasting more than five. It's not difficult to let people through and it only delays you by a few moments.

6. If in doubt, shout

The pros are notoriously bad at it, but amateur golfers have no excuse for not roaring 'fore' when a shot goes astray. If there's another fairway nearby and your hooked ball is heading in that direction, do the decent thing and yell.

7. Cheating

Does cheating fall under the heading of etiquette? There are handicap manipulators, scorecard fixers and fancy footwork fraudsters.

No-one likes a sneak, but then again, no one wants to play the round of their life only to find some 17 handicapper has played the course in two under par gross. Every and any cheat should be outed and sanctioned.

This video from Padraig Harrington offers some useful tips on how to repair divots and rake bunkers

<https://golfcoursemanagement.randa.org/en/My-view/2014/09/Padraig-Harrington.aspx#t=00:00:31>