



Etiquette Information Sheet

Golf Etiquette

This information sheet provides guidance on the manner in which the game of golf should be played. If followed, all players will gain maximum enjoyment from the game. The overriding principle is that consideration should be shown to others on and off the course at all times.

Etiquette is an integral part of the game, defining golf's core values. It describes the manner in which the game of golf should be played to ensure all players gain maximum enjoyment.

In short, it's about "respect":

- Respect for the game – by knowing the Rules and etiquette of golf;
- Respect for the course – by leaving the course as you would like to find it by repairing pitch-marks, replacing divots and raking bunkers;
- Respect for your fellow players – by being sportsmanlike and polite, stay by the green to watch them hole out, and avoid distracting them; and
- Respect for the Club and our Club's Golfing Culture.

Respect for the Game

The Spirit of the Game: Golf is played, for the most part, without the supervision of a referee or umpire. The game relies on the integrity of the individual to show consideration for other players and to abide by the Rules. All players should conduct themselves in a disciplined manner, demonstrating courtesy and sportsmanship at all times, irrespective of how competitive they may be. **This is the spirit of the game of golf.**

Safety: Players should ensure that no one is standing close by or in a position to be hit by the club, the ball or any stones, pebbles, twigs or the like when they make a stroke or practice swing. Players should not play until the players in front are out of range. If a player plays a ball in a direction where there is a danger of hitting someone, he should immediately shout a warning. The traditional word of warning in such situations is "fore".

Rules and Etiquette Knowledge: Strive to improve your knowledge of the game's rules and etiquette. The Official R&A Rules app is available for free for smart phones and tablets. This app is fantastic for improving the golfer's knowledge of the rules and etiquette of the game and includes a 2-minute video on the spirit of the game. Golf Rule books can be obtained from the Golf Shop and it is highly recommended that one be carried in your bag at all times.

Respect for the Course

Course Staff: Players should always alert course staff nearby or ahead when they are about to make a stroke that might endanger them and should remember that course staff have right of way. If a green is being worked on and the flagstick is not in the hole, players are not to hit to the green until it is replaced.

Bunkers: Before leaving a bunker, players should carefully fill and smooth over all holes and footprints made by them and any nearby made by others. The Brisbane Golf Club follows the recommendation of The R&A and USGA Match Committee and asks members to leave the rakes outside of bunkers.

Repair any Damage: Sand is to be carried at all times by all players to aid in the repair of divots throughout the course. Players should carefully repair any divot holes made by them and any damage to the putting green made by the impact of a ball (whether or not made by the player). On completion of the hole by all players in the group, damage to the putting green caused by golf shoes should be repaired.



Preventing Unnecessary Damage: Players should avoid causing damage to the course by removing divots when taking practice swings or by hitting the head of a club into the ground, whether in anger or for any other reason. Players should ensure that no damage is done to the putting green when putting down bags or the flagstick. Note that the flagsticks have reflectors built into them and care should be taken by placing, not dropping, the flagstick on to the green.

To avoid damaging the hole, players and caddies should not stand too close to the hole and should take care during the handling of the flagstick and the removal of the ball from the hole. The head of a club should not be used to remove a ball from the hole. The flagstick should be properly replaced in the hole before the players leave the putting green. Players should not lean on their clubs when on the putting green, particularly when removing the ball from the hole.

Respect for your fellow Players

No Disturbance or Distraction: Players should always show consideration for other players on the course and should not disturb their play by moving, talking or making unnecessary noise. Players should ensure that any electronic device taken on to the course does not distract other players. On the teeing ground, a player should not tee his ball until it is his turn to play. Players should not stand close to or directly behind the ball or directly behind the hole when a player is about to play.

Mobile Phones: To eliminate disturbance to fellow members, whether on the course or in the Clubhouse, mobile phones are to be set to silent and voice mail or message bank facilities. Outgoing calls should, for the same reason, be made out of earshot of fellow members and should be restricted to calls of an essential nature in all areas of the Club's facilities. Members should also ensure that when they are using social media on their devices, this is also conducted with the device in silent mode.

On the Putting Green: Players should not stand on another player's line of putt or, when he is making a stroke, cast a shadow over his line of putt. Players should remain on or close to the putting green until all other players in the group have holed out.

Scoring: A player who is acting as a marker should, if necessary, on the way to the next tee check the score with the player concerned and record it.

Respect for the Club

The Brisbane Golf Club has a proud golfing culture spanning over 120 years. Throughout this time, the hallmarks of our club have been the way in which the spirit of the game is embraced and the way we think about our club and our fellow members. Here are some tips for playing this great game at this great club:

On the course:

- Adhere to the club's dress code and help others in your group to do likewise.
- Watch where your ball and your playing partner's ball finishes.
- When on the green, the closest to the hole should attend the flag.
- Mark your ball as soon as you arrive on the green.
- Arrive at your assigned tee 5-10 minutes before your tee time.
- Hit off on schedule, not before or after.
- Be a part of the objective of group to keep up with group in front.
- Use the BGC Pace of Play info sheet to improve your pace of play.

Off the course

- Adhere to the club's dress code, particularly in the clubhouse, and help others to do likewise.
- Always take your name out of the timesheet as soon as you know you can't play.
- Drop a courtesy email or call to playing partners letting them know you have removed yourself from the timesheet.
- If possible stay after your round for a drink. If you can't then mention this to your playing partners before the round commences.
- If you have put down a fellow member on timesheet let them know you have done so and if they are not available take them out of timesheet as soon as possible.
- Treat Club staff and fellow members with respect.
- At BGC we collect all playing partners card by the player arriving first in Golf Shop, i.e. take all 4 cards.

