

LPGA GOLF 101

Golf for women, from LPGA Teachers

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Golf Game of Lifetime Friendships

On Course Etiquette

The day you play:

- Arrive at least 30 minutes before your tee time, check in at the Pro shop.
- Wear appropriate golf attire: women's shirts must have sleeves if there is no collar, shirts with a collar may have sleeves or be sleeveless. Shorts and golf skirts should be no higher than 6" above the knee. Sneakers are ok, or athletic type sandals or shoes.
- If you have been invited to play as someone's guest, confirm your tee time a few days in advance with them and ask if there is anything special you should be aware of. Your host will most likely pay, but it's always good to offer on the day of.
- If someone at the course helps you with your clubs, a \$1 or \$2 tip is customary per bag. If you are tipping for your entire foursome, \$5 will usually cover it.

On the tee and in the fairway:

- Decide who goes first (this is called "the honor"). Sometimes you can make a circle and flip a tee, whoever it points to has the honor. Do this until all 4 people have their order of play.
- This order will remain the same until someone has a lower score. That person will now have the honor on the next tee. You may also agree to play "ready golf", which is a great way to play faster! The person who is ready tees off first.
- Never stand in someone's line of sight; behind when swinging, behind the hole when putting.
- Keep still and be quiet while others are hitting.
- When driving a cart, always be safe. Park to the side of the ball of the person whose turn it is. Give them space, 15' is ok. If you've never played with them, ask if they have a preference to the side you park on.
- Never drive your cart close to the sand bunkers or closer than 30 yards from any green. Stay on the cart path at the tee box, and usually on par 3's.
- Be sure to know the cart rules before you head out on the course. Typical rules would be "cart path only", "90 degree rule", some courses will have an enter and exit point to and from the cart path on each hole.

If there is a starter, he or she will usually be at the first tee. Their job is to go over any cart rules for the day and any other course info that will help you enjoy your round. (like where the bathrooms are!)

- Be sure to replace or sand your divots.
- Yell “fore” if your ball is heading close to other golfers on the course.
- Always try to stay parallel with the ball of the person whose turn it is.
- If others’ balls are lost, help them look. Five minutes is the max time allowed.

On the green:

- Always mark your ball.
- Repair your ball mark, and one more.
- Be aware of everyone’s line of putt and don’t walk through it.
- If you’re ball is the closest, tend the flag stick for the player who is away. If no one needs it, then take the flag stick out and place it on the green or the fringe where it is out of the way.
- If you hole out first, get the flag stick and be ready to replace it once the last person has holed out.
- Make sure your shadow doesn’t go over someone’s line of putt or the cup. If you are tending the flag stick, make sure your shadow doesn’t go over the cup.
- Don’t stand on the “through line” while someone is putting, they usually can see you. Also, do not stand directly behind them, this is a rule breach.
- If you bring more than your putter to the green, be sure to place your clubs away from the action, but place them where you will have to walk past them when you leave the green. Do not put them in the fringe or rough, always leave them on the green.
- Do not twist your feet or scuff the green. If you do, be sure to repair any damage.

Social:

- Thank your host and host Professional.
- If you need to have your cell phone with you, put it on silent. Try to check it at the turn and not while you’re playing.
- Inform your playing partners that you may need to check periodically if you are playing during work and it is not avoidable, or if you have children or others and you need to be in contact with them.
- Familiarize yourself with some basic rules, like how to take a drop or what to do if your ball goes out of bounds or is lost.
- If you take practice swings only take one or two.

- Be ready when it is your turn. If your ball is close to where the cart is parked, get out, take a couple of clubs and go to your ball.
- Say “nice shot” or “good ball” if someone hits a good shot or a nice putt.
- Club throwing and swearing are not cool! (ok, swearing is necessary sometimes...depends on who you’re playing with)
- “Chit chat” is okay, just don’t delay play. Save your longer stories for “après golf”.
- Don’t forget, golf is something you are choosing to do, have fun and relax! Don’t be “that person”!

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