

RMGC Policies & Procedures

Policy #22: Use of Golf Course & Etiquette

1. Introduction

The primary responsibility of the BOM is to manage the golf course and clubhouse for the benefit of its members. The BOM is responsible for all matters of policy that affect the RMGC as a whole or that affect the welfare of its members.

Members who have constructive criticism or suggestions should submit them in writing to the BOM through the General Manager. Members must refrain from giving offence directly to a member of staff regardless of the circumstances.

2. Bookings.

The use of the Golf Course by members, guests and visitors is subject to a prior booking having been made either through the Club's electronic booking system (BRS) or through Reception and the requisite fee, if any, having been paid in advance.

The Course shall be closed until 0900 every Monday (if not a public holiday) for maintenance and recovery; on all other days it shall be open from dawn to dusk except when declared closed by the BOM, having consulted the Course Superintendent because of unacceptable climatic or ground conditions.

Should conditions deteriorate seriously overnight or during the day when the BOM cannot be consulted, the Course Superintendent is authorised to close all or part of the Course on that day.

All members, guests and visitors must register at Reception prior to playing the Course. Guests and visitors must pay the appropriate fees prior to playing the Course and must display the registration tag provided on their golf bags for identification. All are expected to start playing from the 1st tee unless instructed otherwise in a competition or by a Course Marshal or other Club Official.

3. Dress Code for the Golf Course.

Ladies

Recognised golf polo & sleeveless shirts
Polo-necked jumpers
Golf sweaters
Tailored trousers
Tailored shorts & golf skirts
Waterproofs
Appropriate golf shoes (no metal spikes)
Socks must be worn

Gentlemen

Recognised golf polo shirts
Polo-necked sweaters
Golf sweaters
Tailored trousers
Tailored shorts
Waterproofs
Appropriate golf shoes (no metal spikes)
Socks must be worn

Inappropriate attire for the golf course:

Ladies

Tracksuits or similar
Blue denim jeans (designer or otherwise)
Unsuitable shorts (of unreasonable length)
Halter necks, backless or strappy tops
Metal spikes
Sandals (except golf-specific)

Gentlemen

Tracksuits or similar
Blue denim jeans (designer or otherwise)
Football, beach or similar shorts
Sleeveless or collarless shirts or T-shirts
Metal spikes
Sandals (except golf-specific)

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4. Rules and Etiquette on the Golf Course

A. Introduction

Unlike many sports, 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.

B. Rule Infringements

- You may not play on the Course without a golf bag or share clubs.
- You may not play in a flight of more than 4 players.
- You may not practice on the Course with more than 2 balls.
- Buggies may be driven only by those authorised and never by those under the influence of alcohol or drugs. They can carry no more than two persons and a maximum of two golf bags. All drivers must be at least 16 years old.
- If you witness or suspect a fellow competitor of a serious rule infringement, you should challenge him at the time of the incident.
- You should always have a copy of the Rules of Golf in your golf bag in case any rule issue arises. It is in every golfer's interest to have a good knowledge of the rules, ignorance is no defence. If you don't have a copy of the latest rules, ask for a copy at Reception

C. Safety

- Always ensure that no one is standing close by or in a position to be hit by your golf club, ball or any stones, pebbles, twigs or the like when making your stroke or practice swing.
- Do not play until all players in front of you are out of range.
- Always alert greenkeeping staff when about to make a stroke if that might endanger them.
- Always give way to greenkeeping staff who may be cutting, weeding, dressing or switching greens, fairways or tees before 0930 on weekdays except Thursdays or public holidays
- Immediately shout 'fore' if there is any danger of hitting someone with a ball.
- If you are using a buggy, you must obey the safety and operating instructions in the buggy and as detailed in Policy #7.

D. Consideration for Others

- Always show consideration for other players on the Course. Do not disturb or distract their play by moving, talking or making unnecessary noise.
- Operate your buggy with the utmost courtesy, care and consideration for the safety and convenience of others on the Course.
- Watch other players' shots, as well as your own. Help find balls by noting their positions near trees or landmarks.
- Do not use your mobile telephone except in emergency and always turn off the ring tone.

E. Priority on the Course

- Priority on the Course is normally determined by pace of play.
- A single player has the same rights as a flight of 2, 3 or 4 players.
- Out of courtesy, you should invite those playing in an official club competition to play through provided they are conscious not to delay following flights.

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- You should give way:
 - When playing from the 1st tee, to players in a competition if playing the 1st as an extra hole
 - When playing from the 4th tee, to players on the 15th green
 - When playing to the 11th green, to players from the 12th tee
 - When playing to the 12th green, to players from the 13th tee
 - When playing to the 14th green, to players from the 15th tee
 - When playing the 17th hole, to players from the 18th tee
 - When playing the 18th hole, to players on the 1st tee.

F. Avoid Slow Play

Very few golfers will admit to being slow players but you can play a little bit faster by:

- Being aware of your position on the Course.
- Always playing at a good pace.
- Parking your buggy level with play and taking a selection of clubs to the ball.
- Being ready to play as soon as it is your turn. While waiting:
 - Put your glove on and check your yardage
 - Assess the wind strength and direction
 - Decide on the type of shot you are going to play & select your club
 - Play 'ready golf' if possible, otherwise play promptly when it is your turn to play
 - Decide on your shot and execute it - only take one practice swing.
- Knowing how many shots you have taken on each hole and picking up your ball when you can no longer score on that hole.

G. Keep up with the Flight in Front

- It's the group's responsibility to keep up with the flight in front.
- If you lose a clear hole and delay the flight behind, invite the flight behind to play through, irrespective of the number of players in that group - a single player has the same rights as a group.
- If the flight has not lost a clear hole, but it is apparent that the flight behind can play faster, you should still invite that flight through.
- If one of your group is holding you up, have a polite word asking him to speed up.
- If you feel that your flight is falling behind, take responsibility and bring this to the attention of the other players in your group.
- Catch up by walking quickly between shots & from green to next tee – there is no need to run.

H. Lost Ball

- If you think your ball is lost outside a water hazard or is out of bounds, save time by telling your companions that you will play a provisional ball. They must not move on until you have played.
- Keep an extra ball in your pocket in case you ever need to play a provisional ball.
- Players searching for a ball should signal the flight behind to play through as soon as it appears that the ball will not be found quickly – don't search for 3 minutes before doing so.
- Having allowed the flight behind to play through, don't continue playing until the flight coming through is out of range.

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I. Putting Green

- When on or near the putting green, leave your bag, trolley or buggy away from the green, preferably on the way to the next tee – not on the apron in front of the green or on the fringe and always strictly outside the blue lined Exclusion Zone. If there is no blue line, you must not drive your buggy or bring your trolley within 10 yards of the green.
- Ropes are used to protect worn areas and/or grow in new grass; you may play from these areas unless marked GUR with a solid white line. Buggies, bags, and trolleys are not to enter the roped off areas.
- Do not stand on another player's line of putt, directly behind the hole or player, or cast a shadow over his line of putt.
- Putt out whenever possible instead of marking the ball.
- The first person to putt out should tend the flagstick for other players and replace it securely in the hole when leaving the green.
- Try to avoid wear and tear around the hole by not standing unnecessarily close to it when tending the flagstick. Take care handling the flagstick and when removing your ball from the hole. Do not use the head of your club or lean on your putter when removing your ball from the hole.
- Carefully repair any damage to the putting green caused by golf shoes or pitch marks made by you or others.

J. Care of the Course

- In order to assist in the presentation and maintenance of the Course and help minimise damage you must, wherever practicable, keep your buggy on a path or on the rough. You must not drive your buggy down the length of a fairway but should drive it across the fairway by the shortest distance to your ball. It should then be moved immediately back onto the nearest path or rough to travel to the next shot.
- You must not drive your buggy, if possible, within 10 yards of a green, water hazard or bunker, nor cross a blue line or barrier rope around a tee or green. Wet areas should be avoided.
- Before leaving a bunker, fill and smooth over all holes and footprints made by you and others.
- The rake should not be placed inside the bunker but beside it so as not to block play into the bunker or from the bunker to the hole. For fairway bunkers and greenside bunkers in front of the green, the rake should be placed on the side of the bunker lying parallel to the direction of play; for other greenside bunkers, the rake should be placed beyond the bunker.
- Repair any divots made by you on the Course after playing a shot or taking a practice swing.
- Do not damage the Course by hitting the head of a club on the ground, whether in anger or for any other reason.

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