



Golf Etiquette

Plus Fours, Shout Fore, Par Four

June 2017

When it comes to considering golf etiquette, it can be considered in three main areas:

- Integrity and respect for others
- Care of the course you are playing on
- Following the rules (both official and local)



Let's take a look at each in turn. Golf is one of the few sports played without a referee or umpire, it relies on each player's integrity and consideration for others. Players are expected to show sportsmanship and behave in a disciplined manner at all times, regardless of how their game is going or how competitive they are. Here are some basic rules to follow:

- Be ready to play when it's your turn. Arrive 10 minutes or more before your allotted tee time and, when playing the holes, be ready with the appropriate club for your turn. Leave the putting green quickly at the end of play, mark your scorecards after you clear the green
- Play at a good pace. Keep up with the group in front, don't search for lost balls for more than five minutes and allow others to play through if you fall a hole behind at all times

- No distractions or disturbances. When someone is about to play a shot, be still and quiet, don't let your shadow cast a shadow over the line of the ball when on the greens and stand in sight of, but not in front of, another player if they are close by
- Safety. When hitting your ball ensure that there are no other players too close, being hit by a club, ball or stones etc will hurt. Ensure other players are out of range but if your ball heads in the direction of others, shout a warning, the traditional term used is 'FORE'

A lot of time and money goes into maintaining and improving your golf course. In return, players are asked to respect the course on which they are playing and the work that has been put in by the green-keeping team - leaving the course as they found it. Here are a few pointers:



- Damage limitation. Repair/replace divots that are thrown up from your swing and any ball pitch/impact marks. The ball is played 'as it lies' and if yours landed in someone else's divot, would you be happy?
- Rake the bunkers. When playing from a bunker, rake away any disturbed

sand and foot prints as you leave. A rake is generally provided for this purpose and should be close by



- Follow the paths
- On the green. Never take your trolley or bag on to a green. When removing the ball from the hole don't lean on your club head. And take care when removing the flagstick, ensure it is replaced properly when all players have finished



Local rules for your course are generally found on the back of the scorecard and should be checked before you play; official rules can be found on the R&A website. Here's a rough outline to get you started:

- Check what local rules are in place, they will vary from time to time even if you are familiar with the golf course. Follow the dress code for the course and check the usage of golf trolleys or buggies on and around the course



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BISHOPSWOOD GOLF COURSE

Understanding Golf

- Mobile Phones. If taken out onto the course ensure they don't disturb or distract other golfers; use only in an emergency



- Hole 1, decide who plays first. Common practice says the person with the lowest handicap but you can just toss a coin or draw straws. After the first hole, the person with the lowest score on the previous hole goes first or in the event of a tied score, the person who tee-ed off first at the previous hole
- The lie of the ball. You must play the ball as it lies, you cannot try to improve the ground either under or around your ball. However you are allowed to remove any loose debris
- Sorry wrong ball. If you play a ball that is not yours you must return to where the ball was hit and either find your ball (remember the pace of play though) or drop another ball and take a penalty stroke. If you play a ball out of a hazard and realise it's not yours, there is no penalty and you can continue your search
- Out of bounds. White markers are placed to indicate where on the course is out of bounds, if you hit the ball out of bounds or lose it, then play another ball from the last

position and add an extra shot to your score

- Taking a drop. If the ball is unplayable then take a drop shot; stand straight with an outstretched arm and drop the ball. It must stop within two club lengths of the spot where it hit the ground and cannot be closer to the hole.
- After the round say thank you to your fellow players and don't forget to sign the scorecard. Change out of spikes before entering the clubhouse and adhere to any dress code



If you follow these basic guidelines you will be able to enjoy your round and not impair the enjoyment of others.

Bishopswood golf course was established in 1976 and welcomes both members and visitors to play and take advantage of the driving range, food & beverage, and Pro Shop. Measuring 6474 yards, our course will test you from your first drive to your final putt. In addition we offer both group and individual golf tuition for those new to golf or for those looking to perfect their skills. For society groups we offer a number of packages to suit all requirements which include refreshment and food

The course provides 9 superb holes of golf with a challenging 6474yd Par 72. It is carved through the natural woodland of Hampshire and meandering water hazards. The course is suitable for all standards; it offers a stern test to the low handicap player but also a chance for up and coming players to experience all aspects of the golf environment.



If you are interested in taking up golf or would like to play a round at Bishopswood, give us a call on 0118 940 8601 or pop in and have a chat.