

The Golf Rules Review

An Intermittent Communique by the 2020 WWGA Golf Rules Maven

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Top 5 Golf Etiquette Improprieties

Golf etiquette refers to a set of rules designed to make the game of golf safer, more enjoyable and to minimize damage to golf equipment and the course. This is a big topic, so I will have two issues on etiquette starting with the Top 5 faux pas by our Members, most of which occur on the putting green.

- 1. Walking or standing on another player's putting line.** Our greens are great and when wet you can definitely see indentations where someone has walked. It can take up to 15 minutes for a green to bounce back from an impression. Even when not very wet, some shoes leave more marks than others. You may not think you did not leave any impressions, but "if the person putting thinks you did", then it matters.
Please walk completely around the line of putt. If you must step over a line of putt, be careful and don't hop. Our gals are very nice and often say they don't mind if you stand on their line, but their politeness doesn't imply that you should.
- 2. Not repairing ball marks on the green.** Whether it is yours or from the group ahead of you, please help maintain our wonderful greens by getting into the habit of looking for a ball mark(s) to fix the minute you step onto the green.
- 3. Talking while someone is trying to hit/putt.** This happens most often when there is a foursome. Whispering seems to be even more distracting. "Quiet Please" until the player has hit their shot. Once they are set up and ready to hit, please don't interrupt their concentration by asking them a question such as "Is my ball in your way?" or "Is my cart to close?"
- 4. Arriving unprepared.** I recently played with someone that didn't have any tees and suggested we wait until they got some from the Pro Shop. Often golfers are missing their ball markers or don't carry an extra ball in their pocket. Be prepared and have your tees, glove, ball markers, divot repair tools and extra ball in your pocket before you start your round.
- 5. Not marking your ball on the putting green.** Yes, it saves time not to mark your ball, but if your ball is close to or another player's line or on the same line beyond the hole, please mark your ball.

Courtesies our WWGA Members excel at!

1. We hold our tempers and frustration in check. I can't recall any of our members using bad language or displaying poor conduct.
2. We shake hands, hug (or fist bump during social distancing) at the end of the round and acknowledge our playing partner's good play.
3. We are dressed like golfers. We know if we look the part we can play the part.
4. We lend a hand when we can, by watching for errant shots, helping each other look for balls, and picking up clubs, headcovers or towels left behind.
5. Our cell phones are rarely heard.
6. We all try to be and get better.
7. We know it is just a game.