



Howth Golf Club

HOWTH GOLF CLUB

COURSE ETIQUETTE

The Royal and Ancient rule book states ‘the overriding principle is that consideration should be shown to others on the golf course at all times’.

Golf should be an enjoyable experience for everyone and as such there are a few things we can do during our game to make it so for ourselves and others. While all are not binding under the Rules of Golf these small actions help us all to enjoy our game.

TEE

Before driving tell your playing partners the make and number of the ball you are going to play and any distinctive marks on it.

Who Plays First on the 1st Hole: The Player with the lowest handicap and then next in ascending order of handicap. The person who tees off first is said to have the honour.

Normally the winner of the hole tees off first on the next hole. (2 – 18)

Where to stand

Usually on same line or a little bit behind the person driving. Always out of the person’s eye line. Certain tees afford other possibilities of where to stand.

FAIRWAY

The player who is furthest from the hole plays first. Repair any divot you make on the fairway.

Bag:

Your bag should be beside you but not too close to impede your swing. You should never have to walk BACK to your bag.

BUNKERS

Always enter a bunker on the shallow side. After playing, rake the bunker and exit the way you entered, raking as you go. Leave the rake inside of the bunker.

GREEN

When you have chipped and are on the green, take your bag forward, ahead of the flag and in the direction of the next tee. Then take your putter and return to the green to putt. This ensures that you never need to walk BACK to your bag.

Check for pitch marks on the green and repair them. Do not lean on your putter as this damages the putting surface.

If you are putting first, and there is a ball on the green in your line, ask for it to be marked.

Always mark your own ball if on other people's line, or if requested to do so.

Never walk on anyone else's putting line.

Tend the flag if requested. Player nearest hole tends the flag. The player to hole out first replaces the flag. The flag can be left in the hole or taken out when putting on the green.

Sometimes you may be asked to move your ball to the right or left of a person's putting line. To do this, measure one or two putter club heads to right or left of the putting line, then take a line with a stationary object such as a bush or tree off the green, place your marker and lift your ball. Always remember to return your ball to its original spot before you putt. (See rules of golf for this procedure).

When finished putting, replace the flag and exit the green as quickly as possible. Never mark scorecards on or around the green. Do this at the next tee.

SLOW PLAY OR LOOKING FOR LOST BALL

Always keep up with the group in front. If you think your ball may be lost hit a provisional ball from the same spot after announcing that you are playing a provisional ball. You have 3 mins to look for a lost ball. Call the group behind through if you are delaying them. (see Rules of Golf for playing procedure in case of lost ball).

When a ball is lost hit your own shot first and then go to help the player concerned to find the lost ball, if still necessary. This ensures that there is no delay in play once the lost ball is found.

Slow play, If the group behind you are waiting, call then through

SAFETY ON THE COURSE

Never hit a ball unless the people in front are out of range.

If a ball is in danger of hitting anybody shout FORE left or right as loudly as you can. Generally, do not drive on a par 3 (or a very short par 4) until the group in front have cleared the green.