

Member's Code of Conduct & Etiquette

Etiquette has to do with manners. It is through the courtesy that we show to other people that we show our respect for them and that we show how important we think they are.

The golf etiquette (or lack of it!) that you display will say more about you as a golfer than anything you ever do with your clubs. In a golfing context it also means respecting the traditions of the game, the course, practice and other facilities and leaving them in the good condition in which you would like to find them. One of the traditions of the game is the high standard of etiquette between golfers. **Everyone can be good at etiquette!**

We will not tolerate Members or staff being the subject of any type of abuse, violence, threat, discrimination, profanity or intimidation. You must at all times demonstrate respectful behaviour to staff and Members.

WPGC reserves the right to require any Member to make good any damage or destruction of the facilities caused by the Member's negligence, default or wrongful act.

The Clubhouse

We want all our members and guests to be able to enjoy our Clubhouse facilities and, therefore, request all Clubhouse users to be respectful of others at all times. In particular, please be discrete in using mobile phones, do not swear and keep noise levels reasonable. At certain times of the year golf shoes will not be permitted in the bar & lounge areas. Please also remove your hats/caps before entering these areas. Clean, smart jeans may be worn in the Clubhouse.

Dress Code

Detailed below you can find our golf course dress code rules that must be adhered to by members and guests alike while playing golf:

The Course

Gentlemen

- Sleeved shirts (long or short) with collars shall be worn at all times.
- Turtlenecks tops with 2" collar and manufactured for golf wear, are acceptable.
- Trousers/shorts must be tailored and suitable for golf. No jeans.
- Only sports socks may be worn.
- Golf shoes or trainers must be worn.

Ladies

- Shirts must have a collar and be appropriate for golf.
- Turtlenecks tops with 2" collar and manufactured for golf wear, are acceptable.
- Trousers/shorts must be tailored and suitable for golf. No jeans.
- Only sports socks may be worn.
- Golf shoes or trainers must be worn.

Driving Range

- Smart Casual.

Clubhouse

- Smart Casual.
- No hats to be worn inside the clubhouse.
- Mobile phones to be on silent mode and to take calls outside or on the balcony.
- No smoking or vaping permitted in the clubhouse.

Inviting Guest to the Club

Weybrook Park encourages members to invite guests to come and enjoy our club and we thank you for ensuring you adhere to our members guest policy.

- i) You are entitled to invite up to 3 guests per round.
- ii) Any one guest can play up to 6 times per membership year and no more than twice a month.
- iii) Green Fees should be paid on arrival and MUST be paid before going out to play. Payment must be made on the previous day for guests who are invited to play outside of the pro shops opening hours.
- iv) Members are responsible for the behaviour of their guests on and off the course.

Golf Rules

- Good behaviour, sportsmanship and fair play should be paramount in every golfer's thinking.
- Always show respect to other golfers & accept helpful comments & advice from more experienced golfers.
- It is only polite & fair to others to have a knowledge of the game before setting foot on the course.
- To play properly you must know the rules. Copies are available from the club office or from the R&A. It is recommended that you carry a copy in your golf bag.
- Also, read the local rules on the scorecard. White posts designate the boundary of the course and cannot be removed under any circumstances - free relief is NOT available from these posts. All other posts are obstructions, and may either be moved, or you may take a free drop away - as per the local rules on the card.
- Do not be offended if you are penalised for breaking a rule (or hopefully notified before you do so), it is against the rules of golf for your opponent(s) or playing partner(s) to ignore an infringement. If you are in doubt on a matter, consult with others in your group or, without holding up play, consult your rulebook or scorecard.
- Sharing a bag of clubs is not allowed at any time.

The Tee

- If you meet someone on their own, it is good etiquette to ask them to join you regardless of ability. If it is you that is asked and you wish to refrain from doing so, a polite "no thank you" is all that is required.
- Do not take bags or trolleys onto teeing grounds.
- When starting, the order of play is determined by the official start-sheet, or, if there is none, by the drawing of lots, e.g., by tossing a coin.

Tee Partners

- For safety reasons do not stand ahead (forward of the ball) of the player who is making a stroke.
- To avoid distracting the player, do not stand directly behind his line of play nor anywhere else in his peripheral vision.
- Generally, you should stand in front of (facing) the player teeing off, i.e., to the right-hand side of his line of play if the player is right handed. If the player is left-handed, DO walk to the opposite side of the tee.
- Remain still & silent while your fellow players are playing.
- Check your shadow does not fall in an area which may distract a fellow player while making his swing.
- Do not walk into an area where you may be hit.
- Do your best to see where a fellow player's ball finishes. Watch it in flight and help him find it if it is not readily found.

Tee Player

- Before swinging a club, make sure you won't hit anyone.
- Don't take any practice swings towards another person.
- Don't play until all players ahead are out of range. If in doubt WAIT.
- Do not risk causing damage to teeing grounds, fairways or your partners patience with excessive practice swings. Loosen up on the range, not on the tee.
- If you think your ball might hit someone, warn them by shouting FORE, LOUDLY!
- Never attempt to 'Drive the green' on a dog leg hole unless you are 100% sure that the green has been cleared by the preceding group.
- Do NOT replace your divots on teeing grounds. DO fill them in with the soil/seed mixtures in the tee boxes.
- Clearing the teeing area of your broken tees is a good idea.

Speed

- Play without delay. Do not spoil the enjoyment of others by holding them up.
- Take a maximum of one practice swing for each shot.
- Walk, don't run. Running can be distracting and annoying.
- Plan your shot before it's your turn.
- Focus on staying a reasonable distance from the group ahead.
- Avoid unnecessarily 'pressing' the group ahead. Standing on a teeing ground whilst the group ahead are legitimately playing their next strokes could be classed as discourteous.
- It is understandable that golfers can become impatient if the group ahead has lost ground on the group ahead of them and seem to be playing slowly, however, it is dangerous and never acceptable to send a message by hitting a ball at them. If you are tired of waiting, by all means walk ahead to their group and politely ask them to speed up play or to let you play through if they have clearly lost a complete hole on the group in front of them.
- Be additionally patient if you identify that the group ahead are visitors who may not know their way around the course. Do offer help if appropriate.

Playing Through

- Playing through another group is one of the most difficult and contentious parts of golf. It is difficult because, often, there is an implication that the group who is "being played through" is guilty of slow play and they typically resent that implication - even if it is true. So, if you are going to ask another group to allow you to play through them, do so in a courteous manner and at a convenient time in the round.
- Be sure there is room for you to properly play through before you ask permission. If there is another group immediately ahead of the group you are asking, they will naturally decline to let you through and they will be annoyed that you bothered them.
- Be courteous as you hit your shots in playing through.
- If you are playing slowly (more than a hole between you and the group ahead of you) and you think the group behind might want to play through, invite them to do so. It might be convenient when you are on a green (par 3 holes are particularly good places). Wave them up, stand aside and let them hit up to the green. As they are walking up to the green you can putt out. Then allow them to tee off before you on the next tee.
- Always thank a group who have allowed you to play through.

Ready Golf

Play "Ready Golf" Whenever It's Appropriate

- If you are falling behind the group ahead and you are not playing golf in a match play tournament, it is okay to play "Ready Golf." Ready golf means the golfer who is ready to hit can do so even though he or she may not be farthest away from the hole. Just agree with the others in your group that you will play ready golf when it makes sense. That way they won't think you are just unaware of the rules. It is good courtesy to acknowledge that you are playing ready golf to move things along.
- Ready golf can really help to speed things along, but before you hit be sure that everyone in your group knows that you are going to hit and that you are aware of where everyone in your group is. You certainly do not want to hit someone who is not paying attention, nor do you want several people hitting at the same time.

Care of Your Course

The Golf Club employ Greens Staff to carry out essential daily and long-term maintenance on the course. However, as members we can greatly assist the Greens Staff by observing and acting responsibly on the golf course.

As members of the club, we expect to have the course in its best condition at all times. The Greens Staff have limited resources so if we can assist in a number of simple ways then it is to every one's benefit.

Wherever possible, please keep trollies and buggies on paths.

Bunkers

- Enter a bunker from the low side of the bunker nearest your ball. Maintaining the high edge of bunkers is difficult and climbing down them is likely to cause damage both to the bunker and to yourself should you slip.
- When you have finished your bunker shot, use the rake to smooth out all evidence of your ball, shot and footprints, finally return the rake to edge of the bunker.
- In raking a bunker, do make sure some sand is pushed back towards the face of a bunker to avoid the 'No sand/Lots of sand' unevenness which can result from a combination of bunker shot execution and simply dragging sand towards the back of a bunker on exit.

Greens

- Before you reach the green, determine in which direction the next tee is located as you can then leave bags and trolleys on the side of the green in that direction, so that after putting, you will not delay the following players.
- Keep bags, trolleys and buggies off all greens and their immediate surrounds.
- Do not take trolleys (or buggies!) between greenside bunkers and the greens.
- Be aware of the location of all the balls on the green to avoid stepping on the line of a fellow player's putt. Try to walk outside of their putting line rather than over it especially where the line is not obvious. Large steps can also put damaging pressure on the greens surface.
- Repair any pitchmark you made (always carry your pitchmark repair tool) & also any others that may have gone unrepaired. Remember to repair the mark by working the edges to the centre (NOT by levering soil upwards - this creates fungus breeding air pockets).
- Mark your ball with an acceptable ball marker (e.g., a coin) if the ball is anywhere near a partner's putting line.
- Be careful where you stand so as not to distract a player. The rules of golf do not allow players to stand on the line of a player who is putting (either behind the player or the opposite side of the hole)
- Do not lean on your putter on the green at any time.
- Wait for all players to hit their balls onto the green before removing the flag (unless specifically requested)
- Be careful not to damage the hole or putting green when attending or when removing or replacing the flagstick. DO NOT DROP the flagstick on to the green.
- Generally, the player closest to the hole will attend the flagstick - although under the new rules, you can now leave it in the hole while putting.
- If attending the flagstick:
 - a) make sure it is free in the hole & that it will not stick when you try to pull it out.
 - b) stand as far away from the hole as reasonably possible (arm's length).
 - c) stand to the side of the cup which ensures your shadow does not fall across the line of the player's putt.
 - d) avoid standing on any other player's putting line.
 - e) hold the flag still (assuming you can reach it!).
 - f) keep still and quiet.
 - g) don't forget to remove the flagstick when the ball is rolling towards the hole.

- All players should remain on or around the green until the last putt has dropped.
- NEVER attempt to take the ball out of the hole with your putter head (Hole edge damage risk). Note: it is not always necessary to hole out. Doing so when your score does not count can hold up play on a busy day.
- When all players have holed out, the flagstick should be replaced correctly, ensuring the flag is left unfurled.

Next Tee

- Mark your scores on the next tee, not on the previous green.
- To save time, the person having the 'honour' should tee off before marking the card for which he is responsible.

Litter

- Litter bins are present through the course, please use them.
- Please do not leave cigarette butts on the course.

Buggies

- Drive with care and respect for your passenger, other golfers, the course, and maintaining the condition of the buggy for which you are liable.
- Never make sharp turns that may damage the grass.
- Stay out of bunkers and off grass mounds.
- Keep well away from tees & greens.
- Stay on paths where they exist. Try and avoid wet areas.
- No Drinking and driving!
- Never have more than two people on a buggy.
- Don't drive the buggy whilst others in your group are playing a stroke.
- Sharing a buggy is like sharing a table. No smoking unless by prior agreement.

General

- Do not lose your temper.
- Never drop your golf bag or throw clubs especially on or around greens where irreparable damage may be caused.
- It is impolite and can be distracting to comment on an opponent's swing or stance during a game. In a competition you may be guilty of 'offering advice' which would be against the rules of golf and make you liable to a penalty.
- You may wish to sympathize with, or encourage any players not playing well, but be careful not to patronize them. Some would prefer to suffer in silence! In a competition, all competitors are expected to complete the stipulated round. If injury, ill health or any other reason make it is necessary for you to prematurely end your round, you should make alternative arrangements for your playing partner's scorecard to be marked.
- At the end of a round, whether you win lose or finish all square, you should shake hands with your fellow players in a spirit of good sportsmanship and fellowship. It is also a mark of courtesy to remove headgear before doing so.



Complaints

- Politely ask for the offender's name and report any incident to the manager (or professional) on your return to the clubhouse.

Finally

- There are public rights of way around the perimeter of the golf course which are marked. Look out for non-golfing individuals or groups as they may be unaware of the sources of danger to them (& have you got some Golf Insurance?).

Remember, it is not possible to cover every eventuality in the above notes. Try to make your decisions within the spirit of the game to mutually help each other and preserve the course.

By becoming a member of Weybrook Park Golf Club, you acknowledge your acceptance of the Member's Code of Conduct and Etiquette.

Last but not least, enjoy your game. Good luck!