



Etiquette on the Golf Course

Course Etiquette as defined in the R & A Rules of Golf

Safety

- Players should ensure that no one is standing close by or in a position to be hit by the club, the ball or any stones, pebbles, twigs or the like when they make a stroke or practice swing.
- Players should not play until the players in front are out of range.
- Players should always alert green staff nearby or ahead when they are about to make a stroke that might endanger them.
- If a player plays a ball in a direction where there is a danger of hitting someone, the player should immediately shout the warning "fore".

No Disturbance or Distraction

- Players should always show consideration for other players on the course and should not disturb their play by moving, talking or making unnecessary noise.
- On the teeing ground, a player should not tee his ball until it is his turn to play.
- Players should not stand close to or directly behind the ball, or directly behind the hole, when a player is about to play.

On the Putting Green

- On the putting green, players should not stand on another player's line of putt or, when he is making a stroke, cast a shadow over his line of putt.
- Players should remain on or close to the putting green until all other players in the group have holed out.

Play at Good Pace and Keep Up

- It is a group's responsibility to keep up with the group in front. If it loses a clear hole and it is delaying the group behind, it should invite the group behind to play through, irrespective of the number of players in that group. Where a group has not lost a clear hole, but it is apparent that the group behind can play faster, it should invite the faster moving group to play through.

Be Ready to Play

- Players should be ready to play as soon as it is their turn to play.
- When playing on or near the putting green, they should leave their bags or carts in such a position as will enable quick movement off the green and towards the next tee. When the play of a hole has been completed, players should immediately leave the putting green.

Lost Ball

- If a player believes his ball may be lost outside a water hazard or is out of bounds, to save time, he should play a provisional ball.
- Players searching for a ball should signal the players in the group behind them to play through as soon as it becomes apparent that the ball will not easily be found. They should not search for five minutes before doing so. Having allowed the group behind to play through, they should not continue play until that group has passed and is out of range.

Repair of Divots, Ball-Marks and Damage by Shoes

- Players should carefully repair any divot holes made by them and any damage to the putting green made by the impact of a ball (whether or not made by the player himself). On completion of the hole by all players in the group, damage to the putting green caused by golf shoes should be repaired.

Preventing Unnecessary Damage

- Players should avoid causing damage to the course when taking practice swings or by hitting the head of a club into the ground, whether in anger or for any other reason.
- Players should ensure that no damage is done to the putting green when putting down bags or the flagstick.



- In order to avoid damaging the hole, players and caddies should not stand too close to the hole and should take care during the handling of the flagstick and the removal of a ball from the hole. The head of a club should not be used to remove a ball from the hole.
- Players should not lean on their clubs when on the putting green, particularly when removing the ball from the hole.
- The flagstick should be properly replaced in the hole before the players leave the putting green.
- Local notices regulating the movement of golf carts should be strictly observed.

Penalties for Breach

- If a player consistently disregards these guidelines during a round or over a period of time to the detriment of others, it is recommended that the Committee considers taking appropriate disciplinary action against the offending player. Such action may, for example, include prohibiting play for a limited time on the course or in a certain number of competitions. This is considered to be justifiable in terms of protecting the interests of the majority of golfers who wish to play in accordance with these guidelines.
- In the case of a serious breach of etiquette, the Committee may disqualify a player under Rule 33.7

In addition to the course etiquette as defined above the following apply to Monkstown Golf Club.

- Check the Local Rules before you hit off. Local rules are printed on the score cards and changing rooms and rules of the day will be highlighted in the Professional's shop.
- You may not place a ball in the chute at the first tee until all your playing partners have joined you in the waiting area.
- Dress in accordance with our Dress Code.
- Aim to position yourself and select your club before it is your turn to play. Move briskly between shots and stay aware of your responsibilities to other players in the field.
- Watch other players' shots and shout 'fore' if there is any danger of a ball hitting another group of players. This is most important in the winter months when the sun is low in the sky and the player may not be able to see the ball when the shot is made.
- Enter and leave bunkers at their low part and walk directly to your ball via the flat portion of the bunker. Smooth or rake all marks in a bunker and leave the rake on a flat part of the bunker parallel with the line of play.
- When arriving at the green leave your golf trolley close to the exit to the next tee. If a player has left his bag on the wrong side of a green for whatever reason, it is helpful if another member of the group pulls the bag to the exit.
- Always hold the flagstick at arm's length in the centre of the hole in order to avoid undue wear around the hole. The flagstick should be correctly replaced in the hole before players leave the green.
- Tell your marker clearly how many shots you took as you complete each hole. Never mark your card when it is your turn to play and do not hold up play by marking your card on the green.
- In Par and Stableford competitions players must pick up if they cannot score on the hole.
- Members are requested to have consideration for their fellow golfers by deactivating their mobile telephones while playing on the course. Do not make or take a phone call while on the course.

Extracts from the Bye Laws

- The President, Captain and Lady Captain have priority on the 1st Tee (Bye Law 2.1.1)
- Members and Associates participating in Club Competitions have priority over all other players (Bye Law 2.1.2)
- Members and associates participating in Match Play Competitions have priority over all other players when a timesheet is not in use. If a timesheet is in use the players on the timesheet have priority on the tee (Bye Law 2.1.3)
- Players on reaching the 4th Green should call on players on the 4th Tee to play their tee shots. Players on the Tee should not play until called (Bye Law 2.1.4).
- Players on the 11th Green must give way to players on the 12th Tee before playing (Bye Law 2.1.5)
- Players on the 18th Tee must give way to players on the 15th Tee (Bye Law 2.1.6).
- When a 2-ball, 3-ball or 4-ball are playing from the 7th Tee, at least one member of the group must remain on the roadway to warn motorists/pedestrians. This applies to competitions and friendly games (bye Law 2.1.7).