

WGANJ members, especially those who do not maintain a handicap index, are encouraged to follow these guidelines along with the **USGA Relaxed Rules of Golf**.

This booklet provides guidelines on the manner in which the game of golf should be played. If they are followed, all players will gain maximum enjoyment from the game. The overriding principle is that consideration should be shown to others on the course at all times.

The Spirit of the Game

Unlike many sports, golf is played, for the most part, without the supervision of a referee or umpire. The game relies on the integrity of the individual to show consideration for other players and to abide by the Rules. All players should conduct themselves in a disciplined manner, demonstrating courtesy and sportsmanship at all times, irrespective of how competitive they maybe. This is the spirit of the game of golf.

Safety

Players should ensure that others are a safe distance from them to not be hit by the club, the ball or any stones, pebbles, twigs or the like when they make a stroke or practice swing.

If a player plays a ball in a direction where there is a danger of hitting someone, she should immediately shout 'FORE' as a warning.

Players should not play until the players in front are out of range of their averages distance.

If lightning strikes within ten miles, take cover in a shelter or return to the clubhouse.

Pace of Play & Ready Golf

Play at a Pace and Keep Up with the group ahead of you. Do not worry about the group behind.

You should always be able to see the group ahead of you. If you are more than two strokes behind that group, you should move your ball forward.

It is a group's responsibility to keep up with the group in front. If your group is delaying the group behind, you should invite the group behind to play through, irrespective of the number of players in that group.

If you are riding, and are unsure of your distance or shot, carry several clubs with you to your ball so you won't need to return to your cart for a differnt club.

Always have a second ball in your pocket in case you need to play a provisional ball.

Be ready to play as soon as it is your turn. When playing on or near the putting green, leave your bag or cart in a position as will enable quick movement off the green and to the next tee. When play of a hole is complete, immediately leave the putting green and mark you score down at the next tee box.

If your ball is not directly forward or in a line that would distract another player or cause danger, go to your ball and prepare your shot while another player is taking her shot. Be ready to play when she finishes.

When riding in a cart, park between players' balls so that both can walk to her ball and prepare her shot.

Consideration for Other Players

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 any unnecessary noise.

Players should not stand close to or directly behind the ball, or the hole, when a player is about to play.

Players should ensure that any electronic device taken onto the course does not distract other players.

On the Putting Green

When all players are on the green, the player who's ball is closest to the hole should remove the flag. The first player to hole out, should pick up the flagstick and be ready to replace it when all are finished.

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.

Scoring

Before marking your score on the card, move away from the green to allow the group behind to hit. Mark your score before teeing off.

Lost Ball

If a player believes her ball may be lost outside a water hazard or is out of bounds, to save time, he should play a provisional ball.

She should not search for two minutes for a lost ball. If the first ball cannot be found, play the provisional ball. If the first ball is found, pick up the provisional ball.

While the player looks for the lost ball, other players should play their ball to keep the game moving.

Care of the Course

Fairway

Replace divot or sprinkle sand/seed when provided.

Greens

Repair ball marks on the green.

Bunkers

Before leaving a bunker, players should rake over all holes and footprints in the area.



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 by removing divots 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 players leave the putting green.

Local notices regulating the movement of golf carts should be strictly observed.

Conclusion; Penalties for Breach

If players follow the guidelines in this booklet, it will make the game more enjoyable for everyone.

If a player consistently disregards these guidelines during a round or over a period of time to the detriment of others, WGANJ will consider taking appropriate action against the offending player. Such action may, for example, include prohibiting play for a limited time on the course. This is considered to be justifiable in terms of protecting the interest 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.



Women's Golf Association of NJ

www.wganj.org

Etiquette and the Game of Golf



Information courtesy of the USGA

