

Don't CRUNCH Your Chips While I'm Putting!

Golf Etiquette
For Beginners
of All Ages



by Beth Brainard

Illustrated by Nick Edlund

It's easy to be a polite golfer when you:

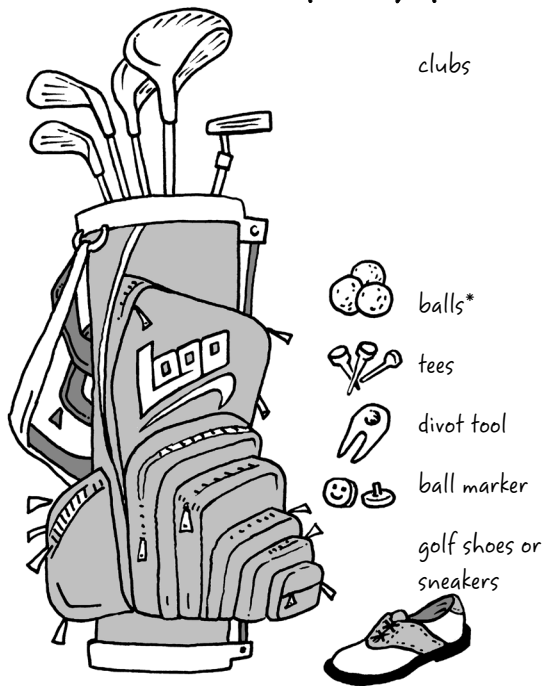
- live by the Golfer's Golden Rule
- behave in a considerate, gracious, courteous, and honorable way
- know the rules of play as well as the rules of conduct (etiquette)

Always be the best you can
be - never be rude.

Read on to learn the rules of golf etiquette.

BEFORE THE ROUND

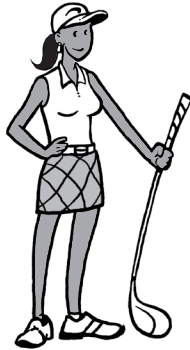
Come with the Proper Equipment



*Some players put an identifying mark on their balls so that they can easily find them on the course.

Dress for the Game

DO



Your clothes should allow you to swing the club comfortably and focus on playing. Dress codes vary by course, so if you are not sure what to wear be sure to check before you go to play.

Wearing the right clothes shows that you want to be a part of what's going on and that you respect yourself, the other players, and the game.

DON'T

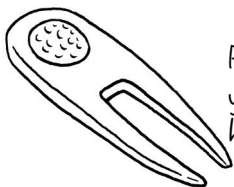


Don't assume that because a course is public you can dress in cutoffs and a T-shirt.

Change your clothes in the locker room not the parking lot.

Bring a pair of street shoes in case golf shoes are not allowed in parts of the clubhouse.

Respect the Course and Its Inhabitants



Repair pitch marks (the dent your ball makes when it hits the green).

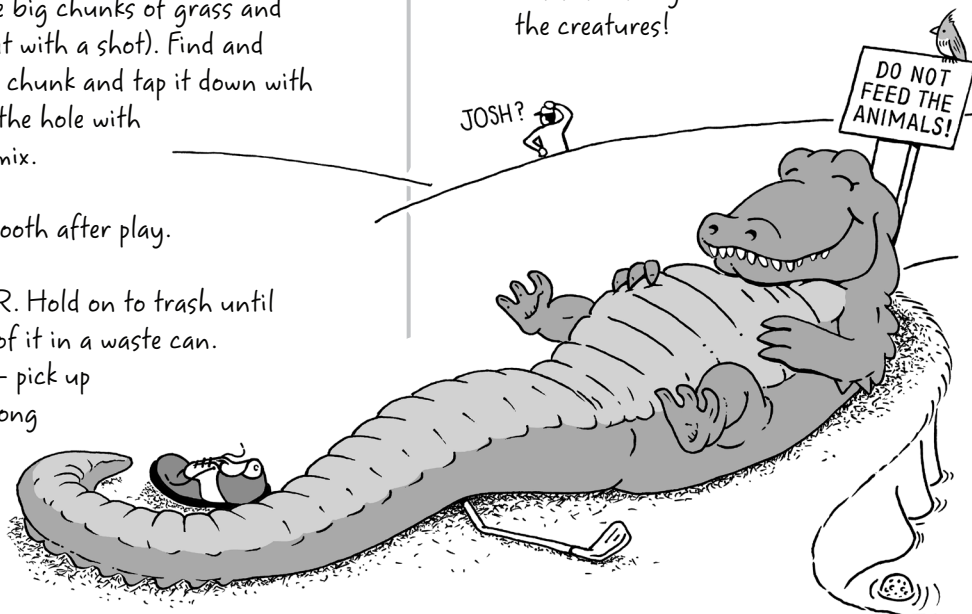
Repair divots (the big chunks of grass and sand you take out with a shot). Find and replace the grass chunk and tap it down with your foot or fill the hole with the club's seed mix.

Rake bunkers smooth after play.

DO NOT LITTER. Hold on to trash until you can dispose of it in a waste can. Do a good deed — pick up litter you find along the way.

Do nothing to harm the wildlife and plants on the course. Find the beauty in it all.

Do not try to touch or feed wild animals on the course. It's safer for you and the creatures!



Do not trespass on private property surrounding a course. If you hit a ball into someone's yard, leave it.

Go to the bathroom in the clubhouse before you tee off, at the turn, or in restrooms on the course. Don't pee on the trees!



!!!Play It Safe!!!

Make sure no one is near you before you swing your club, and don't get too close to someone who is swinging. Ouch!

Don't hit the ball until the players ahead of you are out of range.

If you think your ball is going to strike someone, yell "Fore!" Apologize to players if you hit the ball near them.

ON THE TEE



The player with the lowest handicap goes first. On the following holes, the player who won the previous hole gets the honor.

Be prepared for to play with club, ball and tee in hand when it is your turn.

Know what kind of ball you are playing with so you can quickly identify it on the course.

Develop a short pre-shot routine that won't hold up play.

Make sure the group ahead of you is out of range before your tee off and as your play throughout the round.



Stand out of line of sight of a player on the tee. You and your equipment should be invisible, silent, and still while the other players take their shots.

Don't leave your tee or broken tee on the ground in the tee area.



WHEN YOU ARE A SPECTATOR

Professional golf tournaments are different than many other sports because spectators are expected to watch quietly.

Dress appropriately for the club or course.

Don't trample or destroy the course greenery trying to get a good viewing position.

Do not litter.

Stand silently and still while a player addresses and strikes the ball. Never touch a player's ball.

Cheer or applaud only when a player is introduced on the first tee or after a shot.

Booing, swearing, or making negative

comments about a player in a loud voice are impolite.

Turn off cell phones and any other devices that make noise.

Do not shout "In the hole!" after a shot. (Who is that guy anyway?)

It is OK to ask professional golfers for autographs before and after their rounds, but not during.



ONE LAST WORD. . .

Golf is a special game. It calls for special behavior so that all players have a chance to concentrate and play their best.

When you use good manners, people will like to play golf with you, and you will be a welcome member of the course.

Remember:

Treat all players and course staff the way you would like them to treat you.

Have fun
and enjoy
the game!



About the Author

Beth Brainard is the author of a series of childrens' books on manners featuring the "Good Idea Kids" (shown above with Beth), most recently *Soup Should Be Seen, Not Heard!* In her many past lives, she has directed public relations efforts for divisions of Disney World and Harvard University, and even hosted a radio talk show for parents. A graduate of Harvard University, Beth golfs in Massachusetts and Florida with her husband Paul. Read more at bethbrainard.com/about.

About the Illustrator

Drawings in this book are by **Nick Edlund**, who never plays golf and likely never will, but has a lively imagination and an uncanny pen. Read more about him at edlund-design.com.

Beginners – Don't be THAT Golfer!

In golf, good manners are as important as a good backswing. Learn golf etiquette and be a welcome player in any group, on any course.

This little book has the info you need!



it's quick



it's easy



it has lots of pictures!



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