

# Standards of Player Conduct

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Expected Standards of Player Conduct (formerly known as “Etiquette”) is covered in Rule 1.2a of the Rules of Golf. These are also embedded in the Club Rules (Rule 14.11.1) including potential sanctions for acts of serious misconduct.

Rules of Golf 1.2a

## Conduct Expected of All Players

All players are expected to play in the spirit of the game by:

- Acting with integrity – for example, by following the Rules, applying all penalties, and being honest in all aspects of play.
- Showing consideration to others – for example, by playing at a prompt pace, looking out for the safety of others, and not distracting the play of another player. If a player plays a ball in a direction where there might be a danger of hitting someone, they should immediately shout a warning, such as the traditional warning of “fore”.
- Taking good care of the course – for example, by replacing divots, smoothing bunkers, repairing ball-marks, and not causing unnecessary damage to the course.

## Consideration to Other Players

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As in life, consideration to others and treating everybody as you’d wish to be treated yourself is a good yardstick for behaviour on the golf course. With that in mind, the Captain’s Committee (“CC”) would like to draw all members’ attention to the following:

### Bunkers

Leave a bunker as you would hope to find it with shallow rake marks in the centre and a smooth outer area about 0.5m wide, achieved by reversing the rake and using the flat side. This is how the green staff will prepare the bunkers at the

start of play and it is the standard to which all players should aspire. Sand should be evenly distributed and not just pulled to the edge which leaves the centre base of the bunker short of sand. This can lead to the false impression that there is insufficient sand in the bunker. Ensure all footprints are cleared as you exit the bunker on the low side (never enter or leave a bunker on the high side, this will damage the edge of the bunker).

There is no hard and fast rule regarding the positioning of rakes in or close to bunkers. Official advice is that “rakes should be left in a position least likely to affect movement of a ball”. The CC believes that at Lamberhurst this is most likely to be the case if rakes are left with the head well into the bunker pointing towards the pin and handle accessible from outside. Our rakes are now all equipped with stands which allows the rake to be placed in the bunkers with the handles raised so that it will not prevent a ball from rolling into the bunker. Examples of how this should, and should not, be done are shown here:



As a courtesy to others, rakes should be spaced out in bunkers so that a rake is never far from where it is needed. In bunkers with only one rake, please leave it roughly equidistant from either end of the bunker. In bunkers with more than one rake, they should be spaced out to allow minimum inconvenience and help maintain a good pace of play.

### [Repair Your Pitch Marks](#)

We've all been in the situation where we have not been able to easily identify and repair our own pitch mark. Equally, we've all walked on to a green and found many unrepaired pitch marks. Unless pitch marks are repaired very soon after being made, they will take much longer to recover and nobody wants to play on greens which look unsightly or are bumpy. It is every player's responsibility to repair their own marks and it is good practice to repair any others you might see.

There are notices posted in the clubhouse demonstrating the correct technique for repairing pitch marks and all players should ensure they follow this procedure.

### [Pace of Play \(Rules of Golf 5.6b\)](#)

A round of golf is meant to be played at a prompt pace. The Captain's Committee has set the following guideline times to complete a round as follows:

- 2 Balls: 3 hours
- 3 Balls: 3½ hours
- 4 Balls: 4 hours

In maintaining an acceptable pace of play there are many small actions a player or group of players can take which all add up to time saving and a more enjoyable round. This is not an exhaustive list, but should be helpful:

- Ensure you keep up with the group in front, not simply ahead of the group behind
- If your group falls a hole behind and the following group are waiting invite them through, don't wait to be asked
- Push the group ahead if they fall behind the group ahead of them, and if necessary have a polite word (bearing in mind that nobody likes to be told they're playing too slowly!)
- Be ready to play when it's your turn and move on while other players are playing ensuring that your actions do not interfere with their stroke
- When you reach the green, before putting leave your clubs on the side where you need to exit to the next tee
- If the flagstick is removed, the first player to hole out should be ready to replace it as soon as the last player has holed out
- Mark your card away from the green while your partners are playing, not when it is your shot
- If you think you might have difficulty finding your ball, play a provisional ball
- The time limit for searching for a ball is 3 minutes, please observe this
- Play ready golf if circumstances and the rules of any competition allow

There will be occasions when the course is busy and, for example, you find yourself playing in a 2 ball group amongst a 3 or 4 ball field. It may be necessary, in these circumstances to accept that play may be slower than you would like, so please be patient.

## Safety

Safety of others is a priority and a duty of all golfers. Never play a shot when others are within range.

Always shout 'FORE' and a direction if your ball travels towards an area where others might be.

## Other Issues

There are several places on the course where it is possible to cut across and miss a few holes. This practice is fine on a quiet course, but other players playing a full round, whether ahead or behind you, always have priority and should not have their round interrupted by other players cutting in from a non sequential hole. Awareness of others on the course is fundamental to consideration to other players.