

# HOW TO BEHAVE THOUGH A GOLFER

WHAT IS THE FIRST section in the Rules of Golf booklet?

It is no accident that the code starts with Etiquette.

It was not always so. For many years Etiquette appeared at the very end, after all the long text of the playing Rules. But when a major revision was published by the USGA in 1947, these tips on how to be courteous were presented on page 1, and there they probably will stay forever.

As important as are the playing Rules, thoughtful golfers have always felt that the way in which the game is played is even more important. Etiquette is simply an expression of the game's traditional sporting spirit, a spirit of consideration of the other fellow.

This is something that is caught, rather than taught. Either you have it or you don't. Either you're polite or you're inconsiderate. If you're inconsiderate, no amount of Rules-making will change you. It will make no difference to you whether Etiquette is published on page 1 or page 100.

Have you ever really read through the section on golf courtesy? It's worth reviewing every now and then, no matter how punctilious you are in your golf course behavior.

The code of Etiquette deals with two main fields of relations:

1. Relations between player and player.
2. Relations between the player and the course.

There are many unwritten rules of etiquette. It would require too many pages to detail every action which a player might take in being polite. The situations which have occurred most commonly are those which have found their way into the published code.

Test your courtesy at golf. Below is the full code. Rate yourself on every point, from 10 if you are perfect down to 0 if you are completely guilty.

If your total score is 90 or better, you'll pass. If you break 90, you ought to spend an hour a day in meditation and prayer.

Here is the code:

	Score
1. No one should move, talk or stand close to or directly behind the ball or the hole when a player is addressing the ball or making a stroke.	_____
2. The player who has the honor should be allowed to play before his opponent or fellow-competitor tees his ball.	_____
3. No player should play until the players in front are out of range.	_____
4. In the interest of all, players should play without delay.	_____
5. Players searching for a ball should allow other players coming up to pass them; they should signal to the players following them to pass, and should not continue their play until those players have passed and are out of range.	_____
6. Before leaving a bunker, a player should carefully fill up all holes made by him therein.	_____
7. Through the green, a player should ensure that any turf cut or displaced by him is replaced at once and pressed down, and that, after the players have holed out, any damage to the putting green made by the ball or the player is carefully repaired.	_____
8. Players should ensure that, when dropping bags or the flagstick, no damage is done to the putting green, and that neither they nor their caddies damage the hole by standing close to the hole or in handling the flagstick. The flagstick should be properly replaced in the hole before the players leave the putting green.	_____
9. When the result of a hole has been determined, players should immediately leave the putting green.	_____

## PRIORITY ON THE COURSE

In the absence of special rules, singles, threesomes or foursomes should have precedence of and be entitled to pass any other kind of match. A single player has no standing, and should give way to a match of any kind.

Any match playing a whole round is entitled to pass a match playing a shorter round. If a match fails to keep its place on the course and loses more than one clear hole on the players in front, it should allow the match following to pass.

Total ..... \_\_\_\_\_