



Members of a group should not travel as a pack, with all members approaching the first ball, then the second and so on. Each member of the group should go directly to their own ball.

When two players are riding in a cart, drive the cart to the first ball and drop off the first player with her choice of clubs. The second player should proceed in the cart to her ball. After the first player hits her stroke, she should begin walking toward the cart as the second golfer is playing.

Use the time you spend getting to your ball to think about the next shot – the yardage, the club selection. When you reach your ball you'll need less time to figure out the shot.

If you are unsure whether your ball has come to rest out of bounds, or may be lost, immediately hit a provisional ball so that you won't have to return to the spot to replay the shot.

Begin reading the green and lining up putts as soon as you reach the green. Don't wait until it's your turn to putt to start the process of reading the green. Do it as soon as you reach the green so that when it's your turn you can step right up and putt.

Never delay making a stroke because you're having a conversation with a playing partner. Put the conversation on hold, make your stroke, then pick up the conversation again.

If using a cart on a cart-path-only day, take more than one club with you when you walk from the cart to your ball. Getting to the ball only to find out you don't have the right club is a huge time waster on the golf course.

After putting out, don't stand around the green chatting or take any practice putting strokes. Leave the green quickly so the group behind can play.

When leaving the green and returning to your golf cart, get in the cart, drive to the next tee, and then put away your clubs.

Likewise, mark your scorecard after reaching the next tee, not while lingering on or near the just-completed green.

When using a cart, never park the cart in front of the green. Park it only to the side or behind the green. And don't mark your scorecard while sitting in the cart next to the green (do it at the next tee). These practices open up the green for the group behind.

If you are searching for a lost ball and are willing to spend a few minutes looking for it, allow the group behind to play through.

Don't ask your playing partners to help you search for a lost ball – unless you are absolutely certain there is time for them to do so (e.g., there is no group behind waiting). If the course is crowded, your partners should continue moving forward, not slow things down further by stopping to help your search.

On the tee, pay attention to your partners' drives. If they lose sight of their ball, you can help direct them to it and avoid any searching,

When waiting on the tee for the group in front to clear the fairway, don't be so strict about order of play. Let the short hitter – who can't reach the group ahead – go ahead and hit.

Work on building a concise pre-shot routine. If your pre-shot routine is a lengthy one, it's probably in your best interest to shorten it anyway. Limit practice strokes to one or two at the most.

Leave your cell phone behind.

Carry extra tees, ball markers and an extra golf ball in your pocket so you never have to return to your golf bag to find one when needed.

When chipping around the green, carry both the club you'll be chipping with plus your putter so you don't have to return to the bag.

Try playing ready golf, where order of play is based on who is ready, not on who is away.

You should always have the group in front of you in your sight. If you can no longer see the group in front of you or have not caught up to the group in front of you, you have fallen way behind.