

University of Nebraska
Campus Recreation

Golf Rules

The game of golf consists in playing a ball from the tee into the hole by a stroke or successive strokes in accordance with the rules. Intramural Golf will be played by the rules of the United States Golf Association (USGA), with the following emphases.

Rules of Stroke Play

1. Winner: The competitor who plays the stipulated round or rounds in the fewest strokes is the winner.
2. Failure to Hole Out: If a competitor fails to hole out at any hole before he/she has played a stroke from the next tee, he/she shall be disqualified.
3. General Penalty: The penalty for the breach of a rule in stroke play is two strokes, except when otherwise provided.

Equipment

1. Clubs
 - A. A club is an implement to be used for striking the ball.
 - B. A club shall be composed of a shaft and a head. All parts of the club shall be fixed so that the club is one unit. The club shall not be different from the traditional customary form and make.
 - C. The shaft and grip shall be generally straight. The grip shall be plain in form and shall not be molded for any part of the hands. The club head shall be hard, rigid, and flat. No concavity will be allowed.
 - D. A player may not carry more than 14 clubs. If partners are sharing clubs, no more than 14 are allowed.
2. The Ball
 - A. The weight of the ball shall not be greater than 1.62 ounces (45.93 grams). The diameter of the ball shall not be less than 1.68 inches (42.67 mm).
 - B. Balls must be spherical and symmetrical. A ball that is visibly cut is unfit for play.
 - C. Players may not move or touch the ball while it is in play for any reason, other than for identification purposes, or to clear someone else's path to the hole (such as marking a ball while on the putting green). Notification of a player's intent must be given to another player before touching the ball. A ball damaged during the course of a hole may be replaced with no penalty.

Player's Responsibilities

1. Competitors shall remain in the group/foursome to which they have been assigned by the Intramural Staff.
2. Players should check their score after each hole for accuracy. Scores may not be altered once the scorecard has been turned in.
3. There will be no handicapping of scores.
4. Players should not unduly delay play.
5. The playing of practice strokes during the play of a hole or between holes is forbidden. A practice swing is not a practice stroke.
6. The number of strokes a player has taken shall include penalty strokes incurred. A player who has incurred a penalty shall inform opponents as soon as is practicable.

Order of Play

1. The side entitled to play first from the tee is said to have the "honor." The side which shall have the honor at the first tee shall be determined by draw or lot.
2. The side with the lowest score on a hole shall have the honor at the next tee. The competitor with the second lowest score shall play next, and so on. If two or more competitors have the same score at a hole, they shall play from the next tee in the same order as the previous teeing round.
3. When the balls are in play, the ball farthest from the hole shall be played first.

Playing the Ball

1. Searching for the ball: If a ball lies in long grass, rushes, bushes, Whigs, heather, or the like, only so much thereof may be touched as will enable the player to find and identify his/her ball, except that nothing shall be done which improves its lie, the area of his/her intended swing, or his/her line of play.
2. A ball that is accidentally moved during a search shall be replaced to its original lie without penalty.
3. A player shall not be penalized for moving a ball for the purpose of identification.
4. A ball shall be played as it lies.
5. A player who plays the wrong ball shall be assessed a two-stroke penalty, and then play the correct ball.

The Putting Green

1. The Line of Putt must not be touched except:
 - A. The player may move sand, loose soil and other loose impediments by picking them up or by brushing them aside with a hand or a club without pressing anything down.
 - B. In addressing the ball, the player may place the club in front of the ball without pressing anything down.
2. A ball on the putting green may be lifted to be cleaned.
3. During the play of a hole, a player shall not test the surface of the putting green by rolling or stroking a ball or roughening or scraping the surface.
4. "Gimme": When the opponent's ball is at rest, the player may concede the opponent to have holed out with his/her next stroke and the ball may be removed.

The Flag Stick

Before and during the stroke, a player may have the flag stick attended, removed, or held up to indicate the position of the hole. If the flag stick is not attended before the ball is played, it shall not be attended or removed while the ball is in motion.

Ball Out of Bounds, Lost or Unplayable

1. A ball that is Out of Bounds, Lost, or Unplayable will, under penalty of one stroke, be handled in one of the following ways:
 - A. Ball may be dropped as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was last played or moved.
 - B. Ball may be dropped at nearest point possible to which the ball was lost, went out of bounds, or became unplayable.
 - C. Balls dropped as in 1B (above) must not come to rest closer to the hole than the point at which the ball became lost, unplayable, or out of bounds.
2. Procedure for dropping a ball
 - A. Ball shall be dropped by the player him/herself. He/she shall stand erect, hold the ball at shoulder height and arm's length and drop it.
 - B. The ball shall be dropped as near as possible to where the ball lay, but not nearer the hole.
 - C. The ball shall be re-dropped without penalty if it rolls into a hazard, rolls out of a hazard, rolls onto the green, rolls closer to the hole than its original lie, or rolls out of bounds.

Golf Etiquette

1. Courtesy on the Course
 - A. The player who has the honor should be allowed to play before his opponents tee the ball.
 - B. 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.
 - C. In the interest of all, players should play without delay.
 - D. No player should play until the players in front are out of range.
 - E. Players searching for a ball should signal the players behind them to pass as soon as it becomes apparent that the ball will not easily be found. They should not search for five minutes before doing so. They should not continue play until the players following them have passed and are out of range.
 - F. When the play of a hole has been completed, players should immediately leave the putting green.

2. Care of the Course
 - A. Before leaving a bunker, a player should carefully fill up and smooth over all holes and footprints.
 - B. Replace divots. Repair ball marks and damage by spikes.
 - C. Local notices regulating the movement of golf carts should be strictly observed.

Co-Rec Modifications

Co-Rec teams will consist of two players, one male and one female. Players must designate a co-rec partner before beginning play. It is not necessary that co-rec partners play in the same foursome. Scores of co-rec partners will be combined, then compared to other co-rec entries to determine a champion.

Other Rules

1. A UNL ID is required of all participants on site.
2. Players participate at their own risk.

UNL IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION