## Golf Course Etiquette Made Simple!

Suzanne Garcia Former Rules & Handicap Chair Revised for 2017 by Sandra Hutchins Rules & Handicap Chair EWGA LI Chapter





#### **EWGA LI League Basics**

- Read and Retain League welcome emails and the League Handbook.
- Abide by deadlines set by league tee time captain.
- Embrace change. Your tee time and playing partners will vary from week to week.
- Please be respectful of the volunteers' time.
- Play in your assigned group. Don't leave your playing partners stranded.





#### **EWGA LI League Basics**

- Arrive, check in and pay at least 30 minutes prior to your tee time. Request tee times that allow sufficient travel time.
- Come prepared with all equipment you will need.
- Submit scorecards that are dated, signed and legible.
- Never complain to course personnel. Bring any issues to the league tee time captain.
- Learn to love to play in the rain.





### Who Goes First?

#### Honors (For Information Only) :

- Player who had the best score on the prior hole hits first. BUT Play Ready Golf!
- First Hole toss tee in air between foursome
   Player who tee points to goes first
   Repeat for remaining three players





#### "Ready Golf" speeds play

# The Player who is ready first, hits first! As long as it's safe to do so

Advise other players you will be hitting
Make sure no one is in the line of play
Or in range of possible errant shot





### **Ready Golf**

#### Keep play moving by hitting while other players search for lost balls



# Then help other players search for and recover lost balls



# Where do you stand when others are teeing off?

- Stand to the right and slightly behind the tee
- Do not stand directly behind the person hitting
- If player hitting off the tee is left-handed
  - Leave extra room behind them to swing comfortably
- If cart path runs along the left side of the tee
  - Stay on left side again slightly behind the tee markers
  - Leave extra room

## Where do you stand? (continued)

#### On the Green

- Out of the line of sight (including peripheral vision)
- Never stand directly behind a player
- Or on the extension of their line of putt



#### How to conduct yourself on the Green

#### Never walk in another player's line of putt!



### Handling the Flagstick

- Player whose ball is closest to the pin on the green pulls the flagstick
- Place the Pin gently on the ground away from the line of putt of all players.
- Player who holes out first, replaces the flag.
- Ask if player wants flag attended





### Attending the Flagstick

- #Hold top of flag (so it doesn't flap in the wind)
- Stand so shadow doesn't cover the line of putt
- Stand on low side of hole
- Remove flagstick as soon as putt is struck









#### How to conduct yourself on the Green

Always mark your ball on the green
Place mark behind ball on line to hole
Then lift ball (and clean if desired)
If your ball marker is in another player's line of putt – ask if she wants it moved

#### Two balls on the same line



#### Moving a mark on the green

- Place mark behind ball and lift ball
- Line up putter head with tree, bush or other fixed object
- Place putter head to side of mark
- Move mark to opposite side of putter head
- Place marker upside down as a reminder.....
- To reverse process and return mark to original spot before putting!

## **Taking Care of the Course \*** Always repair your ball marks!



Insert repair tool on side of hole Gently – lift tool toward hole to fill in center of hole Repeat on all sides of hole until it is filled The tap down grass with putter



#### Always replace or fill divots



#### Pick up divot and replace it in damaged area Tap down divot with foot to smooth



#### Taking Care of the Course (cont.)

#### All about bunkers:

Enter and Exit bunker from the low side
 Smooth foot prints with foot
 Rake over foot prints walking backwards out of bunker







#### **Motorized Golf Carts**

- **\* Keep them at least 30 feet away from the green or water hazards**
- Never bring them on hills leading to green or on fringe around green
- Don't drive on steep hills, on mounds or near bunkers and water hazards
- Obey cart signs







#### Motorized Carts (cont'd)

 Par 3's are often "Cart Path only"
 90 degree rule – or "Cart Path Only" on entire course may apply after a rainy day or course maintenance





#### **Pull Carts**

# Keep carts off tee-boxes Never bring a pull cart onto the green surface!!!





#### **Courtesy Counts!**

#### Be quiet and still on the Golf Course :

- ✓ No Cell phones!
- ✓ Do not talk or move while others are hitting
- Do not rattle clubs or open zippers, velcro, wrappers, cans, etc.
- FORE LOUDLY if the ball is headed towards someone
- If your shot ends up on someone else's fairway always let them hit first.
- Never complain to golf course staff!!

#### **Pace of Play**

- **\* Keep up with the group in front of you**
- \* Know when to tee off (foursome is halfway down the fairway and unreachable)
- Pick up at double par on every hole
- Practice continuous putting
- Mark scores on next tee-box





## Pace of Play (cont.)



- ✓One practice swing (only if it helps)
- ✓ 30 seconds to hit (less if scoring over 90 for 18 holes)
- Track other players balls
- ✓ One minute (3 minutes MAX) to look for your ball
- Other players should hit first and then assist in search for ball
- Know your distance before you get to your ball (Distance Measuring Devices are OK in EWGA)





# Pace of Play (cont.)

#### Check markers for distance on your way to your ball (but it's OK to use a DMD)



#### Black & White Striped Pole is usually 150 yards from center of green



### Pace of Play (cont'd)

#### Place carts on way to next tee

Avoids having to walk back for them when group behind is waiting to play

#### Consider calling up players behind you on par 3's

When all players in your group are on green
 Mark balls and move behind green
 Allow group behind to hit their tee shots

Putt out while group behind walks to their





#### **Dress Code**





No denim!



Wear appropriate footwear.





Place extra clubs near flagstick or on the way to your bag/cart so you don't forget them



#### More Odds & Ends

Never touch another player's ball without permission

#### Make sure to place an identifying "mark" on your ball

#### Mulligans and gimmes don't exist

(That's called "Man Golf")

#### Whiffs count!

Summary – The Three R's Respect the GAME  $\checkmark$ Know the rules.  $\checkmark$  Golf is a game of honesty and integrity. Respect the COURSE ✓ Fix your ball marks ✓ Fill your divots Respect other PLAYERS ✓Keep pace. Exercise proper etiquette. Have fun! LONG ISLAND, NY CHAPTER