

Golf – Useful Information

It is important to check the rules and regulations of each golf course visited, but as a rule they conform to those of the [Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews](#).

Reservations

- For some courses, visitors are only permitted to play on certain days of the week and even certain times of the day. Examples of such courses include Royal Troon (Championship), Muirfield and Ballybunion (Old Course).
- For the majority of courses, payment in full is taken at the time of booking. There are few exceptions to this. Refunds are not usually permitted in the event of cancellation or “no-show”.

Handicap Certificate

- A valid handicap certificate should be carried when playing at all golf courses.
- Play may be denied if you are unable to produce your handicap certificate.
- Some golf courses have a maximum handicap specification. For example, the Old Course, St Andrews requires proof of at most a 24 handicap for gentlemen and 36 for ladies.

Equipment and Buggy Hire

- It is possible to rent clubs and shoes at most Golf Clubs.
- Very few courses have buggies. A player with proof of being over 60 years of age or having a medical certificate provided well in advance can request a concession at some venues, but there is no guarantee.
- On St Andrews Old Course, golfers who are registered disabled with a **permanent** condition of disability and relevant supporting documentation may request a buggy for use on the Old Course between April and October. It will be driven by a qualified caddie driver. **The buggy is provided free of charge but the appropriate caddie fee is payable.** Golfers’ disability documentation should be provided **at the time of booking** or when entering the Old Course ballot.

Golf Etiquette and Speed of Play

- All visitors are expected to be familiar with standard course etiquette and play at a reasonable pace.
- Each golf course has a timed playing standard relating to its length and degree of difficulty.
- Please note that the standard should be the maximum time allowed for a game of golf under normal conditions for a four ball.
- Remember – your place on the golf course is immediately behind the group in front and not immediately in front of the group behind.

Caddies

- Caddies are self-employed and are not retained permanently. They provide valuable insight into the course and cannot be recommended too highly. To ensure availability they should always be requested in advance. Caddies should always be paid in cash on the day and gratuities are at your discretion.

Golf Course Care

Most golfers seek recognition as being knowledgeable about their sport and we offer some words of advice to follow to earn the respect of your fellow golfers.

- Replace and firmly tread down any divots.
- Smoothly rake over any foot, ball or club marks left in a bunker.
- Repair ball impact marks and damage by shoes on golf greens.
- Avoid damage to the putting green when putting down bags or the flagstick.
- Trolleys, golf carts and bags are not allowed on putting greens.
- Trolleys and golf carts are not allowed on tees and must follow the paths and direction signs set out for them.

Dress Code on the Golf Course

A dress code of smart casual applies at almost all golf courses. We recommend a sleeved, collared tee shirt and smart trousers. Tailored long shorts are acceptable and worn with knee length socks. No vests, sleeveless t-shirts, football shirts, track suits, denim, torn clothing or dirty work wear are permitted. If in doubt, consult the starter or access to the course may be denied.

Only shoes designed specifically for golf are acceptable. Increasing numbers of clubs insist on plastic cleats or "soft spikes". These can be fitted to shoes before departure or changed at the clubhouse for a fee. Sports/training shoes are not permitted.

Dress Code in the Clubhouse

Dress code is smart casual. No wet clothing, hats, caps, t shirt, rugby or football clothing. Outdoor wear (ie waterproofs, coats etc) must not be taken into any public room and clothing must not be hung over chairs. Shorts may not be worn in any public room other than by ladies, who are permitted to wear tailored shorts in the Mixed Lounge. Sometimes tailored shorts are permissible and denims that are free of fraying, holes, rips or tears. More traditional golf clubs with access to the clubhouse may require a jacket and tie in the evening.

Golf shoes are not worn in the lounge or locker passage room and suitable smart footwear must be worn in the Clubhouse at all times.