

Caddie Functions

The function of the caddie is to handle and carry a player's clubs on the golf course and otherwise assist in any other way in accordance with the rules.

Responsibilities

1. Player's Equipment

- a) Clean and restore golf clubs during play and after play
- b) Clean and track golf balls during play and after play

2. Rules and Etiquette

- a) Know rules and etiquette well enough to be able to advise player
- b) Study the rules and etiquette guide provided

3. Advise Player

- a) Lines of play
- b) Club selection
- c) Course management

4. On-Course Assistance

- a) Carry player's equipment
- b) Rake bunkers
- c) Attend and replace flagsticks
- d) Point out locations of greens and hole positions
- e) Replace and repair divots and ball marks

Etiquette

Caddies are expected to know the etiquette of golf. Their behavior must be gentlemanly as that of the golfers for whom they caddie. The etiquette of golf is a series of nine suggestions that are Rules of Golf from the United States Golf Association, but are a standard of behavior that will make golf pleasant for everybody on the course.

1. No one should move, talk or stand close to or directly behind the ball or hole when the 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 make a stroke until the group in front is out of range.
4. In the interest of all, players should play without delay.
5. Players searching for a ball should allow the group behind to play through; they should signal to the group in following them to pass, and should not continue their play until the group has passed and are out of range.

6. Before leaving a bunker, a player should carefully fill up and smooth over all holes and footprints made by him.
7. Through the green, a player should ensure that any turf cut or displaced by him is replaced at once and is pressed down and that any damage to the putting green made by the ball or the player is carefully repaired.
8. Players should ensure that, when putting down bags or the flagstick, no damage is done to the putting green, and that neither they nor their caddies damage the hole by standing too close to the hole, in removing the ball from 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 play of a hole is completed, players should immediately leave the putting green.

Golf Rules for Caddies

Caddies should familiarize themselves with the following definitions, rules and concepts, which can be referred to at the United States Golf Association and the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland.

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1. Under the Rules of Golf, the caddie is a part of the player's side.
2. The player is responsible whenever he/she or his partner's caddie violates the Rules of Golf. The penalty to the player is the same as though the player had been the violator.
3. A caddie should have knowledge of the Rules of Golf, especially those rules concerning his role as a caddie.
4. Caddie: A "caddie" is one who carries or handles a player's clubs during play and otherwise assists him in accordance to the rules. For any breach of a Rule by his caddie, the player incurs the applicable penalty
5. Advice: A player must not ask for or accept advice on how to play a shot or on a club selection except from his caddie, his partner or his partner's caddie. If he/she seeks or offers advice from anyone else, he/she loses the hole in match play and is penalized two strokes in stroke play. A forecaddie may not give advice. It is not a violation for a player to ask anyone about the Rules of Golf, the location of the hole or the location of his ball are items of public information. Items of public information are not considered advice.
6. Line of Play: The direction which the player wishes his ball to take after a stroke.
7. Lateral Water Hazard: Defined by red lines or red stakes.
8. Provisional Ball: A ball played when a ball may be lost outside a water hazard or Out of Bounds. A provisional ball is played to save time.
9. Out of Bounds: Grounds from which play is prohibited. Out of Bounds can be defined by white lines or stakes, fences, or posts. A ball is Out of Bounds when all of it lies Out of Bounds.

10. **Second Ball:** Allows a player to play a second ball if there is doubt as to procedure. If a player is in a situation and does not know how to proceed, he/she may put a second ball in play, play the original ball and report the facts of both balls to the committee or rules official before he/she returns his score card. Before he/she plays the second ball, the player must first declare which ball (original or second) he/she would like to score with. He/she must hole out both balls.

11. **Exerting Influence on Ball:** Happens if a player intentionally takes an action to influence the movement of a ball or to alter physical conditions affecting the playing of a hole in a way that is not permitted by the rules. Examples include dropping/placing something in the line of a putt that makes the ball take a different path or stomping near the hole to try and make a ball drop in.

12. **Loose Impediments:** Natural objects that are not growing or fixed or not native to the area. Things like twigs or fallen leaves or pebbles on a green.

13. **Bending or Removing Growing Objects:** You are not allowed to bend or break growing branches. You can't pull weeds out or other creative "landscaping" to improve your shot.

14. **Player's Ball Hitting the Caddie:** It is a penalty if your ball hits your caddie, your bag or your equipment.

15. **Searching for a Ball:** There is a 5 minute limit for ball searches. A caddie should do their best to keep an eye on all shots to better assist the player with arches, and encourage the use of a properly marked provisional ball if there is a possibility the first shot may be lost.

Putting

1. **Indicating Line of Putt:** A caddie can assist with reading a green and out, but may NOT touch the putting surface with their hand or flat stick to indicate the line of play.

2. **Attending the Flagstick:** If the player's ball is on the green and the putt strikes the flag stick - whether in the hole or lying on the ground - it is a penalty. The caddie should always ensure the flag is properly pulled and placed in an area to ensure no chance of contact with a putt.

3. **Position of Caddie:** Position of the caddie during a putt can NOT be behind the golfer, or along the line of the putt to potentially indicate the line of the putt.

4. **Snatching Up Ball:** If one ball seems about to hit another on the putting green, you must not lift the second ball out of the way. Your player will be penalized two strokes in stroke play.

