

Guide to Dress Code and Etiquette

On the Course

Smart recognised golf clothing must be worn at all times. As a general guide, if an item of clothing can be bought in a course pro shop then it may be worn on the course. If you are in any doubt please ask in the pro shop for advice.

We do not allow denim, football or rugby attire, track suits, cargo shorts or trousers of the multi pocketed and multi zipped variety. We prefer to see shirts tucked into waistbands, but acknowledge that fashions change, so shirts specifically designed to be worn untucked are acceptable. Footwear must be recognised golf shoes worn with either metal, soft spikes or pimples soles.

In the Clubhouse

The club is continuing to develop a relaxed and convivial environment in the bars and lounge, so golf attire is quite acceptable in the clubhouse after finishing a round.

Clothing deemed acceptable on the course is also acceptable in the bars and lounge, smart denim jeans may be worn as long as they are not of the torn or ripped variety. Shoes that have been worn, or are intended to be worn on the course, may not be worn in the Danescourt Lounge or dining room, and we require golfers to change out of any wet or dirty clothing before entering the spike bars. Neither caps nor obtrusive football shirts are permitted. Holdalls and shoe bags must be left in changing rooms and not brought into the lounge. We believe that our dress code is straightforward, modern, and self-policing.

Golf Etiquette

The pace of play in golf is of great importance to the enjoyment of the game, not just for those you partner, but for others behind you. Slow play can cause disquiet and must be avoided if at all possible. South Staffs embraces "Ready Golf" which speeds up the pace of play, but which may not always be appropriate in Match Play.

Ready Golf allows:

- Hitting a shot when safe to do so if a player farther away faces a challenging shot and is taking time to assess their options.
- Shorter hitters playing first from the tee or fairway if longer hitters have to wait.
- Hitting a tee shot if the person with the honour is delayed in being ready to play.
- Hitting a shot before helping someone to look for their lost ball.
- Putting out first when ready with the consent of other players.
- Hitting a shot if a person who has just played from a greenside bunker is still farthest from the hole but is delayed due to raking the bunker.
- When a player's ball has gone over the back of a green, any player closer to the hole but chipping from the front of the green should play while the other player is having to walk to their ball and assess their shot.
- Marking scores upon immediate arrival at the next tee, except that the first player to tee off marks their card immediately after teeing off.

Priority Points

- Only wear clothing appropriate to South Staffs Golf Club Dress Code - both on the course and in the clubhouse.
- Employ good manners and courtesy at all times with your fellow players.
- Mobile phones are to be in silent mode whilst on the course (including the practice putting green), except for medical reasons.
- Having played your shot, replace any divots and/or repair any damage.
- It is a group's responsibility to keep up with the game in front. If you lose a hole, call the group behind through.
- Always replace your divots and make good the sand after playing bunker shots
- Repair your pitchmark on the green plus one other, avoid stepping on the line of any putt and don't waste time in your own preparations to putt.
- If you see any litter on the course please pick it up and dispose of it in the nearest bin
- Never discard cigarette ends on the course.
- Above all, enjoy your game and help others to enjoy theirs.

On the Tee

- Always be ready at the first tee before your agreed starting time.
- Check that your ball is marked appropriately for identification purposes before play.
- Do not stand immediately behind, or in front of, any player addressing the ball.
- Maintain silence and remain still whilst shots are being played.
- Do not drive from the tee whilst other players are playing to, or putting out on adjacent greens.
- Do not drive until the match in front is out of range.
- To avoid wasting time searching for lost balls, always watch your partner's or opponent's ball in flight and note where it lands. If in doubt always play a provisional ball.
- Avoid striding out ahead and leaving your partners behind...they may want to play their shot and you could be in the way!
- When starting from any tee other than the first, do not cut in anywhere on the course if there is anyone playing on the immediate hole behind (including the tee).
- Members playing in Club competitions take priority over social games.

On the Fairway

- Do not dawdle between shots, and be prepared to be called through at any time.
- When searching for a lost ball and the match behind is ready to play, call them through. You are allowed 3 minutes to find your ball before declaring it lost...but you are not permitted to delay the match behind for 3 minutes before calling them through.
- If you are a three or fourball, and a twoball or a foursome match is behind and travelling faster than you, call them through at the first opportunity.
- Think about the shot you are about to play as you approach your ball.
- Avoid playing your shot whilst others are playing theirs.
- Do not take practice swings or start a conversation if there is any risk of disturbing another player's concentration.
- Before playing any shot, make sure that the fairway or green is clear and the group in front is out of your range. If there is any doubt about the safety of your shot, shout "Fore" immediately.

- On holes where the drive is blind allow sufficient time for the players in front to move on. If there is a bell use it discreetly, rather than attempt to warn the entire neighbourhood.
- If you have hit onto another fairway, players already playing that hole have priority; you may have to wait before you take your next shot.

Around the Green

- On reaching the green, it saves time to leave your clubs at a point directly between the pin and the next tee. Try not to leave your clubs in such a place that, to collect them, you have to cover the same ground twice.
- Before playing your shot to the green, make sure you do not disturb, or are not disturbed by, other players close by. It is always worth checking that they are not setting up to play as you are about to play yourself.
- If you are not ready to play when it is your turn, encourage one of your fellow players to play.

On the Green

- If attending the flag, take care to prevent your shadow from falling over the hole or across the line of the putt being taken, and hold the pennant if it is flapping in the wind.
- The player furthest from the pin (or his/her partner) has the right to putt first.
- When others are putting, try not to stand within the player's immediate line of vision, keep quiet and still, and don't stand in line with the putt, either in front of or behind the line.
- Take care not to damage the hole when replacing the flag.
- Keep an eye on the match behind. Please don't delay your departure from the green or waste time marking your card on or near the green.