

Parent Golf Guide



What is golf?

Golf is a club and ball sport played in an open area where players use a variety of clubs to hit a small white ball into holes.

A golf “round” can be 9 or 18 holes with each hole beginning at the teeing ground and ending once the player’s golf ball is in the hole.

The object of the game is to get the ball into the hole from the teeing ground using the least number of strokes possible.

A “stroke” is when a player strikes their golf ball with their club and moves it.





EQUIPMENT

What is a golf ball?

A golf ball is a special designed ball to be used when you play the game of golf. Under the rules of golf, a golf ball has to be a certain size. Most golf balls for sale at stores have been tested and are deemed playable by rules committees. Golf balls have gone through many changes over its history, and the modern golf ball has been created in order to help maximize control of the ball for players.



What are golf clubs?

A golf club is used to hit the golf ball in the game of golf. Clubs come in all sorts of shapes and sizes. Most modern clubs are made out of metal. Every club has a head, where you strike the golf ball, a shaft, and a grip. Kids need lighter and shorter clubs to ensure they can swing them. If they use a club too heavy or big for them, it could lead to bad form, bad strikes on the ball, and therefore make them not want to golf. They are better off having lighter clubs.



Types of Golf Clubs:

Woods:

Woods are the “big clubs” that hit the ball the furthest distance. The head is large and round and the shaft is long. They used to be made out of wood, hence their name, but now are made out of metal. They are usually the lightest club in the bag to help swing it faster. The biggest and furthest wood is the Driver. The Driver is the club that goes the furthest and is usually used on the teeing ground to hit your first shot as far as you can. Other woods will have numbers on them. The lower the number the lower the loft on the club so the further it will go, so a 3 wood will go further than a 5 wood but a 5 wood will fly higher in the air than a 3 wood.



Types of Golf Clubs:

Irons:

Irons are the “middle” of the clubs. They used to be made of iron, which is where they got their name. They typically have shorter shafts and smaller heads than a wood. They can be used for full swing and are usually hit in the fairway or rough for the second or third shot of a hole. They will have a number on them as well. The lower the number means the lower the loft so the ball will travel lower in the air and the further the ball will go. So a 3 iron will go further than a 7 iron but a 7 iron will fly higher in the air than a 3 iron.



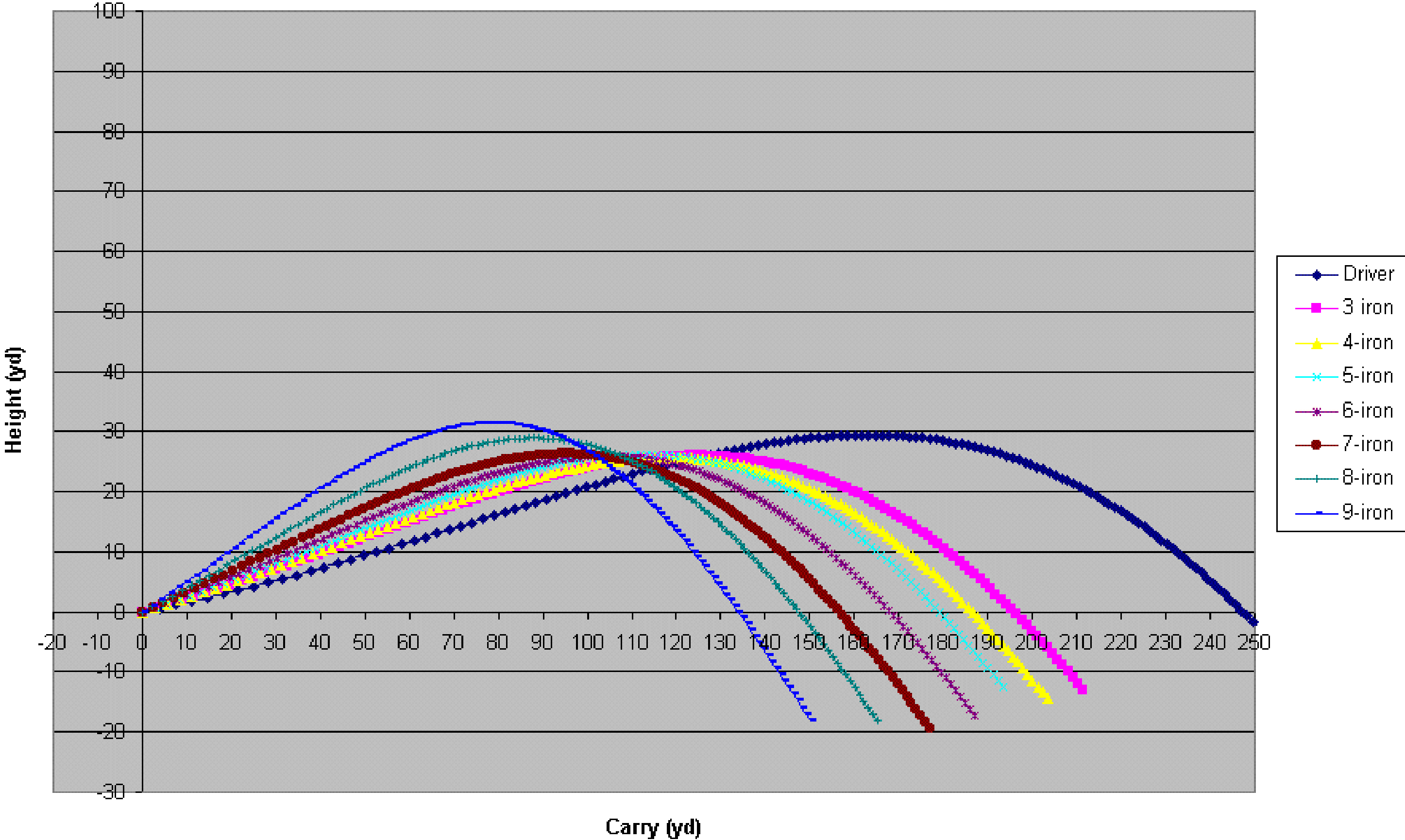
Types of Golf Clubs:

Hybrids:

Hybrids are a type of club that are a “hybrid” of woods and irons. The head is bigger than an iron head but smaller than a wood head. Many people use these clubs in place of a 3,4, or 5 iron because the bigger head allows the ball to be hit much easier than a low lofted iron. Hybrids are also easier to hit out of the rough than woods or irons as the head is bigger like a wood but cuts through the grass like an iron would.



Height vs Carry of Various Clubs



Types of Golf Clubs:

Wedges:

Wedges are a subset of irons. They do not have a number but are assigned a letter. They look similar to irons but have shorter shafts and higher lofts on the head. They are used for shorter distanced shots, pitching, or chipping.



Types of Golf Clubs:

Putters:

Putters are golf clubs designed specifically to use when putting on the green. They have flat heads to help the ball roll on the ground and not get up in the air. When on the green, players are very close to the golf hole and just want to roll their golf ball precisely.





PARTS OF THE COURSE

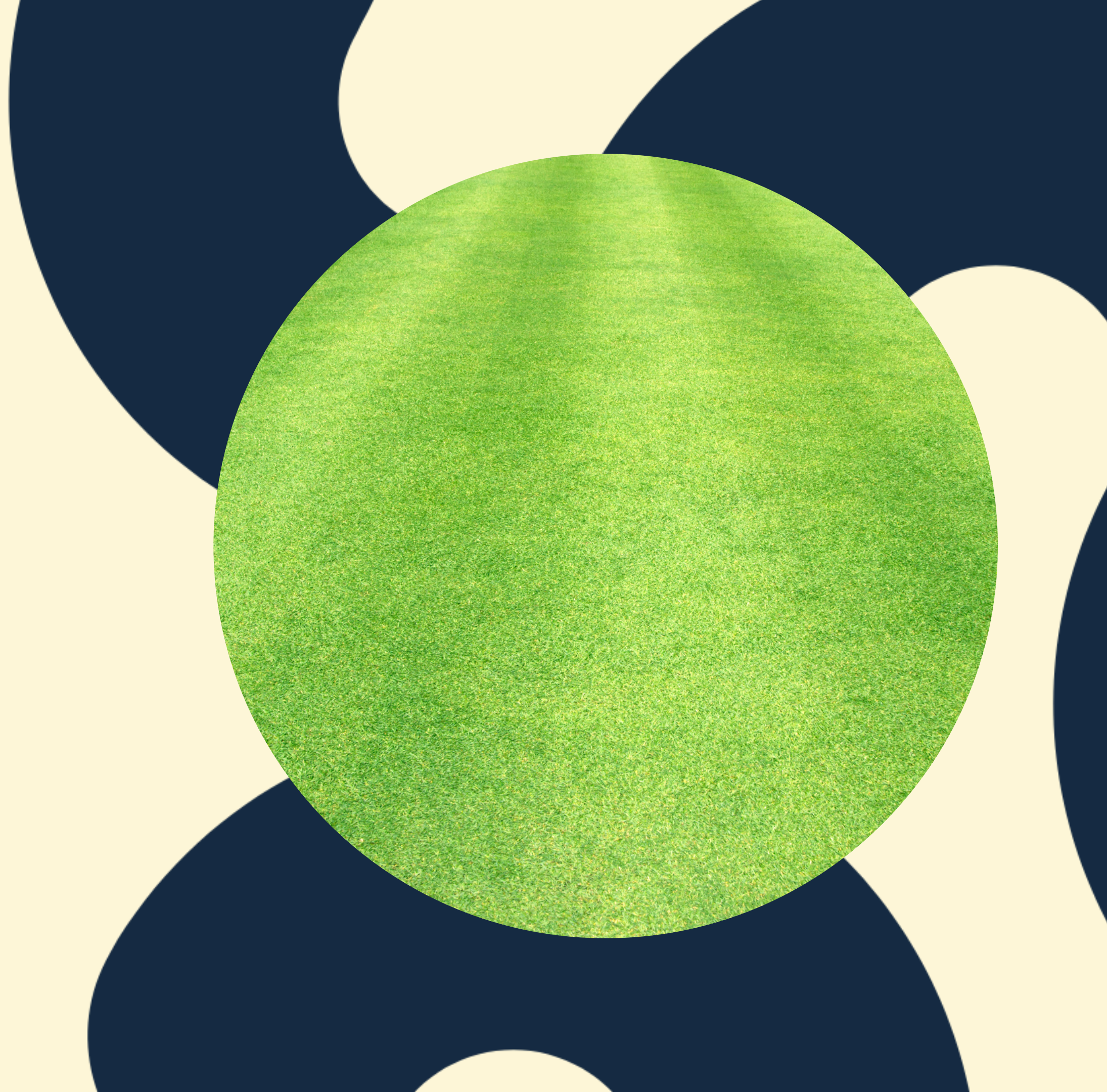
What is the teeing ground?

The Teeing Ground is the area of the golf hole where play on that hole begins. This is the only area golfers are allowed to use a “tee” to elevate their golf ball before striking it to commence play of the hole. The boundaries of the teeing ground are defined by a pair of tee markers.



What is the fairway?

The Fairway is the part of the golf course between the teeing ground and the corresponding green where the grass is kept short. Your goal from the teeing ground is usually to land the ball in the fairway as it makes the shot into the green easier since the grass is short.



What is the rough?

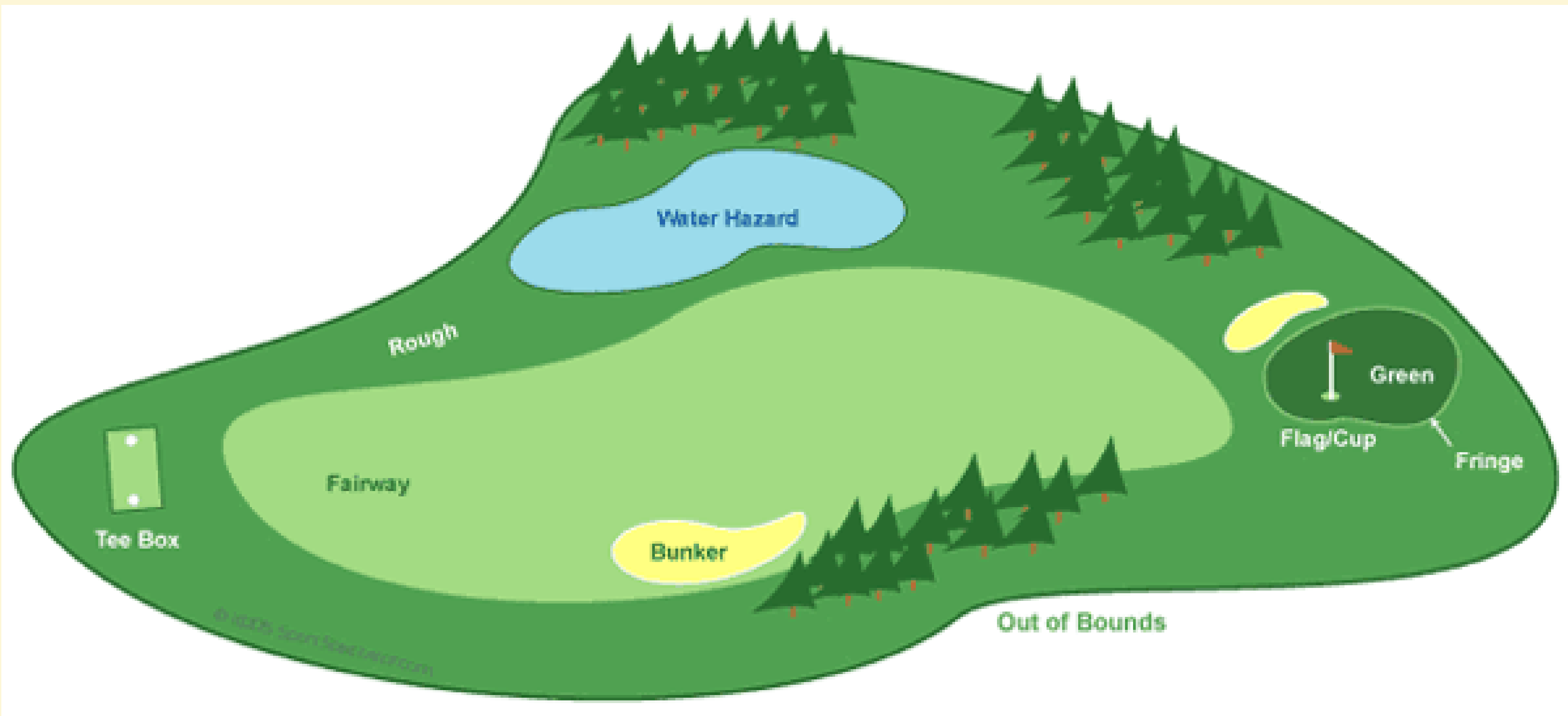
The Rough is an area that borders the fairway where the grass has been deliberately allowed to grow long in order to make it harder to hit the ball. So if you hit your tee shot offline, to the left or right of the fairway, you will be dealing with taller grass and a more difficult shot into the green.



What is the green?

The Green is the area of the golf course that contains the actual cup of the golf hole. The cup/hole has a flag in it to emphasize where it is from further away. The grass on the green is cut the shortest in order to hit really short shots, putts, that can precisely roll on the ground into the cup/hole.







TYPES OF GOLF HOLES

What does “par” mean?

Par is the number of strokes it should take to complete a golf hole on a golf course.

The total par for 18 holes will be somewhere around 72. So it should take 72 strokes to complete 18 holes, but this is a very high goal to set as the average golfer shoots 90 for 18 holes which is 18 more strokes than the par.



Par 3

A Par 3 is a hole that should take three strokes to complete. They are usually the shorter holes on a course. It should take one stroke to get on the green or near the green and another two strokes to chip/putt the ball into the hole.

Par 5

A Par 5 is a hole that should take five strokes to complete. They are usually the longest length holes on a course. It should take three strokes to get the ball on the green or near the green and another two strokes to chip/putt the ball into the hole.

Par 4

A Par 4 is a hole that should take four strokes to complete. They are usually the medium length holes on a course. It should take two strokes to get the ball on the green or near the green and another two strokes to chip/putt the ball into the hole.





HOW TO PLAY

Types of Play:

Stroke Play:

A form of play where players compete against all other players in the competition by comparing their total score (total strokes taken overall).

Match Play:

A form of play where players play directly against an opponent by trying to win as many holes as you can. You win a hole by having the low score on a hole.

Scramble:

A form of play where players in the group all hit a shot and take the best shot to hit next. Everyone then hits from the decided spot and this continues until the ball is holed.





Types of Play:

PGA Junior League:

This will be our scramble format tournaments with a team emphasis. Players will be in groups of 2-3 playing scramble format with their team while playing match-play against their opponents, trying to win holes. This would be the first step in learning how to play on the course. It is low pressure, playing with a team in a scramble so if they hit a bad shot, there is no consequence for them.

Development Tour:

In 2024 this will be a strictly stroke-play tournament series. Players will play their own golf ball and compete against the other players by counting the strokes it takes to get the golf ball in the hole for all 9 holes played. The lowest score wins. Each player can have ONE caddie.



Steps of Play:

Players first tee off from the teeing ground between the tee markers that are designated for their division. They can use a tee here. This is the first stroke. Once everyone has teed off, players can move to their ball. The ball is now considered “in play” once they hit their first shot so the ball cannot be touched or moved from here without using a stroke (unless in a scramble). The player furthest away from the hole will hit their second shot next and continues on like this. Every time the player strikes their ball, they add a stroke to their score. This is done until the ball has been holed in the cup.



Courtesy:

Players should take their time but also be courteous of those around them. We recommend quickly getting to your player's golf ball but taking your time once it is your turn to hit. Nine holes should be completed in 2 hours and 15 minutes and 18 holes should be completed in 4 hours and 30 minutes.

Since the player furthest away hits first, it is recommended to be aware of your surroundings. Try not to stand right in front of someone's line of sight to the hole, it can be distracting for the player hitting and dangerous for those standing in the way.

Players should always show respect for their fellow competitors. Things like watching others hit, quiet while others are hitting, and helping others look for golf balls are important.





On the Green:

Once a golf ball is on the green, not on the fringe or near the green but on the green, players are allowed to mark their golf ball with a ball marker or a coin. Players want to place the marker directly behind their golf ball then they can pick up the ball to clean it and line it up for their putt.



Unique Scenarios:

Double Par Maximum:

This just means a player can pick up their ball once they have reached double the number of strokes the par is on a hole. So for example on a par 3, players can pick up their ball once they get to six strokes hit, as 6 is double of 3.

This is used in a lot of competitive events trying to get players experience playing on the course.

It speeds up the pace of play and allowed players not to get too frustrated hitting a lot of shots.

