

# Golf Pointers

\*The following comments are intended only to make you more comfortable on the Golf Course the first few times you go golfing.\*

Always check your Golf Club's local rules and be aware of notices posted in the clubhouse.

## 1. You will need:

- Golf Glove for your dominant hand.
- At Awali Golf Course (AGC). Shoes Flat soles. Think tennis and other court sports. Note that deck/boat shoes can be slippery on damp sidewalks and inclines. They are not recommended. (Best to check with each course you play.) **NO SPIKES.**
- A Golf Bag. To hold golf clubs, balls, tees, and everything else you may need on the course. Can be borrowed.
- Golf Clubs. Can be a starter set. For example, can be comprised of Driver, Hybrid, a couple of Irons (7 and 9 perhaps), Pitching Wedge, and Putter. These can be borrowed, or you can use men's clubs in the beginning and grip them lower on the shaft grip unless you are tall, of course. Limited or no rentals of women's clubs and bags currently at the AGC.
- Golf Tees. Long for Driver Tee Box shots and short for Iron Tee Box shots. Limited supply of tees is available for purchase in the AGC clubhouse.
- A Small Mat. For AGC, you will need a small mat to hit your ball from on each shot. Limited supply is available for purchase in the AGC clubhouse.
- Golf Balls. Colored balls will stand out against the AGC's sand. Such as yellow, orange, blue, red, etc.
  - You should have at least two sleeves of marked balls (see next item) in your bag. Two of the six should be in your pocket ready for play. If you are not sure if your ball might be lost from your Tee Shot, state that you are going to hit a provisional ball and hit your second ball. (See USGA Rules for specific rule information.)
  - Mark your golf balls with unique marks to identify your ball without picking it up. Be certain you are picking up YOUR BALL and not someone else's ball. It is possible other golfers have the same ball type and number. Announce your ball type and number before the first person hits their tee shot on the first hole. Show your golf ball's unique marking.

## 2. Getting Started.

- a. The beginning of each Hole on a golf course will be roughly defined by the Tee Box, The Fairway, The Brown (AGC) or The Green (RGC). There are other not so fun areas on some Holes such as Bunkers, Out of Bounds,

Ground Under Repair, etc. See your USGA Golf Rules and your Golf Course's Rules.

- b. Determine the order of play for each player on the First Hole by whatever agreed means such as spinning a Tee and see which player is first, second, etc.
  - c. For successive holes, the player with the lowest number of shots on the previous hole will Tee first and so on.
  - d. For the second shot and successive shots on any Hole, the player farthest out (away) from the hole (actual "hole" on the putting surface) will hit their ball and this process continues until all players' balls have been hit into the actual hole on the putting surface. You will hear, "Who is away?" But you should be able to already see who is away.
3. DO NOT stand directly behind or to the side of a golfer about to strike the ball. An errant golf ball can do damage if it hits your face.
- a. However, do try to watch the ball for where it lands to assist a golfer in finding their ball if needed.
  - b. Keep your shadow away from a golfer's putting line and the hole.
  - c. On the putting surface, DO NOT step between the golfer's ball and two feet past the hole. Go around always! Especially on a sand course such as AGC because you will leave behind footprints for the golfer to need to roll the golf ball over. Also applies on a grass course such as Royal Golf Course (RGC) in that you may trample down the grass.
  - d. DO NOT carry on a conversation when a golfer is preparing to strike the ball.  
QUIET PLEASE!
  - e. BE READY TO HIT YOUR BALL. When it is your turn, you need to already have a marked golf ball in your hand, the mat (AGC), the golf club you have selected, and you need to have decided the shot you plan to make.

4. What is a PAR? PAR 3, PAR 4, PAR 5 and rarely PAR 6. The total number of strokes assigned to a particular hole. One way to look at this is the PAR assigned (See scorecard) is broken down basically as two putts on the putting surface and the remainder as tee shot and fairway shots and others made to arrive on the putting surface. For example, if a hole is a "PAR 5," you can break it down this way: three shots and two putts = five shots. This NOT a rule, but only for thinking about. Your personal goal should be for no more than two putts on any hole.

- a. Scoring. using the PAR five example.
  - Six total shots would be a Bogey
  - Seven total shots would be a Double Bogey
  - Eight total shots would be a Triple Bogey
  - Four total shots would be a Birdie

- Three total shots would be an Eagle
- Two total shots would be a Double Eagle or Albatross
- One shot is an ACE or Hole in One!

#### 5. A Few Golf Terms

- a. Shotgun Start usually in a competition, where golfer's first hole may not be Hole One. Instead, many or possibly all Holes will be Starting Holes and golfers will tee up at the same time only on different Holes of the golf course.
- b. Fore! (Left or Right) This is what you SHOUT quickly and very loudly when your ball is going in the direction of another Hole and/or may strike other golfers.
- c. Drive Golfer's first stroke from the Tee Box. Each Hole.
- d. Best Ball or Scramble Can be used several ways and best said as on each Hole or on Each Shot, the best shot is used or the best score on the Hole. Used in tournaments but can also be used as Beginners start to play for the first few times, etc..

#### 6. Respect the Golf Course.

- a. Pickup your used Tees
- b. Do not drop trash. You will find a trash can at each Tee Box.
- c. AGC: There will be a man at each hole to brush/repair the Brown (putting surface). You can ask him to point you to the next hole. To get past any language issues, I use my fingers to indicate the next hole number and this has worked. You will not be the only one who has asked. Always nice to say, "Thank You."

#### 7. The Practice Range and your Instructor are you very Best Friends Forever (BFFs) for enjoying the game of golf. Practice! And take lessons. Engage in offered golf clinics. Your game will improve as you practice, receive instruction, and play.

#### 8. Study the USGA Golf Rules and your Golf Club's local rules. Ask your instructor for clarification as needed.