

Golf Course Etiquette

COVID-19 Edition

The Credit Valley Golf and Country Club



Etiquette has always been a big component of the game of golf. Here at Credit Valley, we work hard to have our members fully engaged in incorporating etiquette as part of our culture, whether it be repairing divots and ball marks, raking bunkers, or by adhering to our dress code and cell phone policies.

As the Course and Property Manager, I can assure you that we strive to do our best to provide exceptional playing conditions every day. Each morning the entire property is cared for with the utmost attention to detail and with your help, as well as a collective commitment to leave the course in the condition you found it, we can ensure the best possible experience for you, your fellow members and guests each and every day.

We are so fortunate to have this spectacular property right here in the heart of Mississauga and with minimal effort, we can continue to enjoy playing and caring for one of the most beautiful properties in the city.

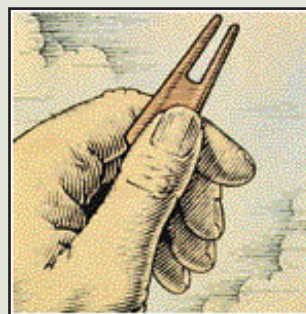
*Chris Bowers
Course and Property Manager*

Ball Mark Repair

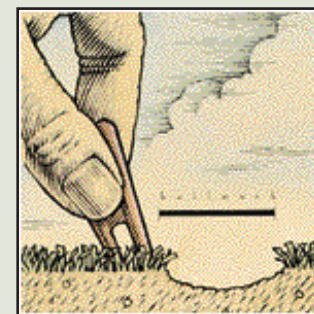
Ball marks, the indentations caused when a ball lands sharply on a soft green, have been ruining good putts since the early days of golf. The majority of the work that goes into maintaining excellent putting surfaces is the responsibility of the greens staff. However, some responsibility is that of the golfer. Please take the time to properly repair your ball marks when playing. A properly fixed ball mark is hardly noticeable following repair, whereas an improperly fixed mark can take months to heal. Unrepaired ball marks not only look bad, but they are a major contributor to bumpy greens.



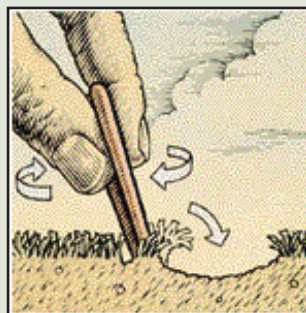
The Proper Way to Fix A Ball Mark:



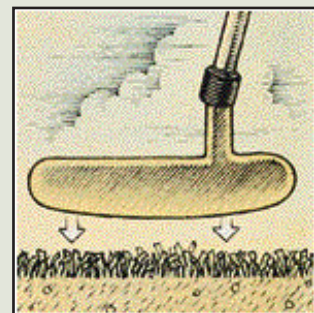
Step 1:
Use a pronged ball mark repair tool; knife, key or tee.



Step 2:
Insert the repair tool at the edges of the mark; not the middle of the depression.



Step 3:
Bring the edges together with a gentle twisting motion, but don't lift the grass. Try not to tear the grass.



Step 4:
Smooth the surface with a club or your foot. Repeat steps until the surface is one you would want to putt over.

Divot Repair

For golf generations, divots have been the bane of golfers and superintendents, making divot repair and divot management programs an integral part of golf course maintenance practices. In a 1941 installment of the 'Greenskeeper's Reporter', a story even quoted three greens chairmen saying, "divots were the 'No. 1 pest'."



An example of a large divot.



Same divot, properly replaced.



An example of a smaller, broken divot.



Same divot, properly filled with divot mix.

Divot Etiquette Reminders:

- If you take a significant divot, please take the time to replace that divot to match the orientation in which it was taken. Properly replaced divots are often able to re-establish themselves within 5 - 7 days, whereas a divot refilled with divot mix requires 16 - 23 days to fill in.
- If your divot falls apart on impact, please take the time to fill your divot utilizing the divot mix provided. Divot mix is available on all pull carts, golf carts and in clip-on containers for those who wish to carry their clubs. It is important to note that our divot mix contains bentgrass seed to help expedite the recovery. If there are any unfilled divots in your immediate proximity, please take the time to fill them as well. Filling additional divots will help provide everyone with a better playing surface. If you find your container is getting low, refill stations are available at each of the course drinking fountains and at the end of the bridge on 9 tee side.
- To assist golfers in filling as many divots as possible, a box containing divot mix containers which, under normal circumstances, is placed adjacent to a new tee each week. It is currently not in use to relieve touch points due to COVID-19. When it returns, please use it to fill as many divots as possible on the corresponding hole.
- If you take a divot in the rough, please do not fill the divot with mix as bentgrass is not a desired turf species in the rough. As with the fairways, please replace your divot if possible.



Bunker Raking

Each season, more hours are spent by greens staff maintaining our bunkers than any other feature on the golf course. Each morning, staff rake out the previous day's footprints or imperfections to provide the best playing surface possible. Due to COVID-19, there are currently no rakes on the course to reduce touch points.



Bunker Etiquette Reminders:

- Always enter the bunker at the lowest point closest to your ball.
- Please pick up your ball, ensure there is adequate sand where the ball was, clean the lie flat, place the ball down and play your shot.
- Upon completion of playing the shot, please use your foot or golf club to smooth the disturbed sand as best as possible.

Pace of Play

Our goal is to have groups play in 4 hours and 12 minutes or less. Numerous tools have been provided to help everyone achieve this goal. Ten minute tee times space golfers out from the start of the round so that slight delays during the play of a hole will not negatively affect those following. It also gives your group a chance to get through it then catch up to the group ahead. Members can monitor their own progress by referring to the clocks located at holes 4, 7, 9, 13 and 15. These are set so that when you arrive at the clock, if you are on pace, the time displayed will show your starting time on hole #1. Pro Shop staff take regular tours of the course throughout the day. GPS units installed in all carts help staff pinpoint any potential slow areas on the course, allowing them to handle the issue immediately. There are many helpful pace of play tips available on the Credit Valley website located in the Golf information section.

Your place on the course is in position behind the group in front of you, not staying immediately in front of the group behind you.



Carts - GPS System

All golf carts are equipped with a GPS unit which allows the Pro Shop to know the location of all carts as well as check the pace of play in relation to our 4 hour and 12 minute goal. The GPS units also alert the golfer if they are driving their cart too close to restricted areas, such as greens or rivers. If you hear the cart beep, you can make your way back to the cart path immediately. This will stop the beeping. As you approach greens with your cart, make your way to the cart path at least 50 yards out. This protects the turf areas where the most delicate shots need to be hit. Having excellent turf conditions undiminished by cart traffic gives the golfer the best chance of hitting a good shot.



Yelling Fore

The 6th tee can become a bottleneck on the course and it is not uncommon to have more than one group waiting to hit their tee shots. The main reason for this is that the groups on 6 need to wait as the group on 18 passes by after hitting their tee shots. There is a fairly easy way to help this situation. When playing the 18th hole, after teeing off, you should walk or drive your cart down the left side of the hole (along the cart path is ideal). When you get even with your ball, proceed out to it on a 90° angle. You are far safer the closer you are to the valley wall and those teeing off from on top of the hill will not need to delay playing their shots into the valley.

The second location that you can make a minor adjustment to help make the course safer is on the 5th tee. After putting out on 4, walk to the cart path side of the 5th tee and stand there while you wait to hit your tee shots on 5. Those playing the 4th hole will thank you, as it is visually distracting and somewhat unnerving to see golfers when they are waiting on the left side of the 5th tee.

At any point during your round when you or one of your playing partners hit a wayward shot that is going in the direction where other golfers may be, you must yell FORE!! It is far better to warn someone who is not there than not to warn someone who is. This gives other golfers the opportunity to protect themselves from a ball that may potentially hit them.



Wireless Communication Devices Policy

The Board of Directors of The Credit Valley Golf and Country Club recognizes that Wireless Communication Devices (WCD) are very much a part of our lives. We also recognize the importance of all members' rights to enjoy the peace and tranquility offered at Credit Valley. For this reason, we have chosen to implement WCD policies. Your respect for our policies will allow all Credit Valley members and guests to continue to enjoy the relaxing experience of our golf club. Your co-operation is appreciated.



WCD Policies:

- While on Credit Valley property, all WCDs are to be switched to silent mode. Under no circumstances is the use of these devices to detract from other members' enjoyment of the course, the Clubhouse or the property.
- Cell phone use is prohibited in any area of the Clubhouse that provides food and beverage service. Men's and Ladies' locker room locker bays are excluded.
- In all other circumstances, all incoming calls should transfer to voicemail or be dealt with in a manner that does not disturb other members' enjoyment of the Clubhouse, golf course or practice facilities.
- Email and text messaging functions may be used anywhere on the premises; however, we ask that common courtesy, discretion and consideration for others be used while using your WCD.



Golf Course Etiquette



Dress Code

The Club has a dress code in effect. Staff will enforce the dress code, but it is the responsibility of members to ensure their guests are aware of it and adhere to it. Certain Club events will have their own specific dress code requirements which will be detailed in the event invitation or promotional material.

UNACCEPTABLE ATTIRE for the Clubhouse, Property, Golf Course and Practice Range for Ladies, Gentlemen, Children and Guests include:

- Athletic shorts falling below the knee
- Cropped tops
- Cargo pants
- T-shirts
- Short-shorts
- Team shirts or sweaters
- Tank tops
- Shirts and sweaters with non-golf slogans
- Fleece or knit jogging suits
- Rugby pants
- Cut-offs
- Sweat suits
- Spandex
- Swimsuits
- Headgear worn backwards
- Metal spikes

Smart Denim is permitted at Credit Valley as follows:

Solid colour denim of any colour, in good taste. Denim may not have holes, be ripped, torn, tie-dyed or frayed regardless of price or designer pedigree. Skirts must be appropriate length, consistent with the Club's normal dress policy for ladies. Credit Valley will permit smart denim everywhere in the Club except for the golf course, the health facilities, the outdoor practice facilities and the winter indoor practice facilities. The Club reserves the right to restrict denim for special events as communicated to the membership in advance.



How Do You Practice?

In order to maintain great conditions throughout the season, we need your help. When you practice, hit each successive shot from immediately behind the previous divot. You will only take 1" of turf on each swing instead of a normal sized divot of 6 to 8 inches. Practicing in long strips as opposed to random or box divot patterns is not only easier to maintain, but allows more members to practice in the same area.

Examples:



Bad Divot Pattern



Random Divot Pattern



Preferred Line Divot Pattern

**We need your help to maintain
our practice facility.**

Please do your part.



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