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readygolf

1. Choose a set of tees appropriate to your skill level. New golfers or high handicap players should use the forward tees.

2. Each member of a foursome (or any group) should proceed directly to his or her ball. The group should not travel as a pack, going first to one ball, then the next, and so on.

3. While riding to your ball, use the travel time to begin thinking over your next shot—Preparation!

4. If sharing a cart, don't drive to the first ball, wait for the first player to hit, then head to the second ball. The first player should walk over to the cart as the second player is playing his/her shot.

5. Put a few extra tees and a spare ball in your pocket at the first tee so you don't have to return to your golf bag to retrieve them.

6. When you think your shot might have landed out-of-bounds or be lost, immediately hit a provisional ball (that you have in your pocket from the first tee). Don't walk ahead to search, only to have to return to the original spot to replay a shot.

7. If you are within a pitching or sand wedge shot of the green, bring along your putter and walk to the green while your partner drives the golf cart.

8. Begin lining up your putt and reading the break as soon as you reach the green. When it's your turn to putt, be prepared to step right up and take the stroke.

9. Leave golf carts to the side of the green, and in the direction of the next tee, never in front of the tee.

10. Never stand on or next to the green after holing out in order to write down your score. Write it down when you reach the next tee.

11. Study your line of putt while others are putting.

12. Never stand on or next to the green after holing out in order to write down your score. Write it down when you reach the next tee.