



GOLF

Golf is a game in which the player attempts to propel a small, resilient ball with clubs around a course, consisting of widely spaced holes, in regular progression and with the smallest number of strokes. A typical golf course is 9 or 18 holes. There are several sports that hit a ball with a club or stick, but golf has three factors that make it a unique sport. 1) It is played over large areas of land, rather than a prepared surface. 2) the objective is to get the ball into a hole in the fewest number of strokes. 3) an opponent has no influence over a rival's play, only over his own.

Scoring: Each hole is given a predetermined amount of strokes that it should take to get the ball in the hole. This is referred to as **par**. A scorecard is given and the player must record the number of strokes it takes to get the ball into the hole for each hole played. The strokes are then added up giving the player their final score for the course played.

Rules of play/Key Terms: The rules for golf are very complex. But a few are explained below:

- Each player is only allowed to carry 14 clubs at one time during the course of the game.
- Once the ball is in play (tee off) the ball cannot be touched or moved by a player without incurring a stroke penalty.
- The player whose ball lies farthest from the hole is obliged to play first.
- The ball must be motionless before being struck.
- The ball must be played as it lies.
- **Irons** – any number of clubs with a head made of iron or steel, usually numbered 1-9
- **Woods** – a club, which can be made of wood or metal, that has a large head and is used for shots requiring greater distance. Starting with a driver and proceeding to the 5 wood.
- **Divot** – a piece of turf removed by the club when making a shot.
- **Fairway** – the area of the course between the tee and the green.
- **Green** – the whole golf course according to golf rules. However, in popular usage, it refers to the putting surface.
- **Ace or “hole in one”** – a hole made in one stroke
- **Eagle** – two strokes under par for the hole.
- **Birdie** – one stroke under par for a hole.
- **Bogey** – a score of one over par for the hole
- **Double Bogey** – a score of two over par for the hole.

Origin – Scotland is considered to be the birthplace of golf.

Governing Body – [United States Golf Association](#)

Dimensions – dependent upon the course—no one course is the same and they are ranked according to difficulty