

“Ready Golf” at Fermilab

Spring, 2012

Everybody has a definition of “Ready Golf,” and it means slightly different things to different people. This document has been written to establish what we mean by “Ready Golf” at the Fermilab Wednesday Fox Valley League. The basic idea is to do whatever it takes, within reason, to be ready to hit your next shot as soon as possible.

There is a sentence in our by-laws that addresses this concept (I. H. 4.):

If you can play your shot out of turn without interfering with the play of your opponent, then you may proceed after announcing your intention and gaining approval from your opponent.

Here are the guidelines, agreed upon by the League Captains, for “Ready Golf:”

- Etiquette
 - **Watch** the shots of your fellow golfers and be prepared to help him/her locate the ball.
 - Go **straight** to your ball and get ready
 - On the green, leave your bag on the side of the green **closest** to the next tee
 - Line up and visualize your putt **before** it is your turn
- A basic rule of etiquette is that the player farthest from the hole should hit first. However, there are several appropriate situations where this guideline is not followed (but *always* clear this with your opponent)
 - If your opponent’s ball is **lost**, you may hit your shot first and then help in the search
 - If your opponent hits a **bad shot** and is still away, it is OK to hit while s/he is preparing
 - Let your opponent **putt out** short putts

Here are some relevant references on the web:

1. A more detailed definition of “Ready Golf”
<http://library.thinkquest.org/10556/english/high/gameplay/readgolf.htm>.
2. From The USGA: <http://www.usga.org/etiquette/tips/Golf-Etiquette-101/>