

## COURSE ETIQUETTE

**At Stonebridge, we want to ensure everyone enjoys their visit every time.**

**By following the 'Stonebridge Etiquette' detailed below, you can make sure you, and your group, are playing in the spirit of the game.**

### PACE OF PLAY

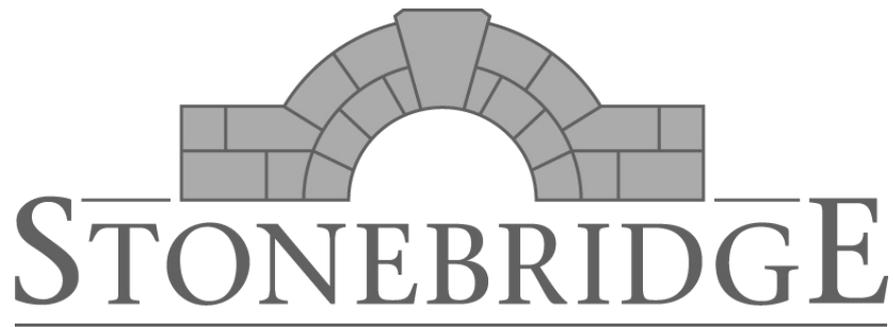
To help reduce slow play on the course, the R&A Rules regarding Etiquette has changed significantly over the last few years. The introduction of Ready Golf, Putting with the Flagstick in and reducing the time allowed when searching for a ball are some of the changes that have made a positive impact.

You may find yourself in a situation where your group or a group in front of you may have lost their position on the course and lost holes on the group in front. There is a number of factors that can cause this, but the most important thing is how you deal with it, whether you have lost time on the group in front, or whether you are being held up.

If at any point in your round you feel you are not keeping up with the group in front, you must call the group behind you through. You do this by stepping to one side and waving them down. This should be done at the earliest opportunity.

If you feel the group in front have dropped behind, if possible to do so, please politely inform the group in front that you would like to play through. Be aware – this only applies if the group in front are not being held up themselves.

Applying pressure to a group that are playing within time and behind the group in front achieves nothing other than ruining what should be an enjoyable experience. Incidents of rudeness or aggression will not be accepted and further action will be taken.

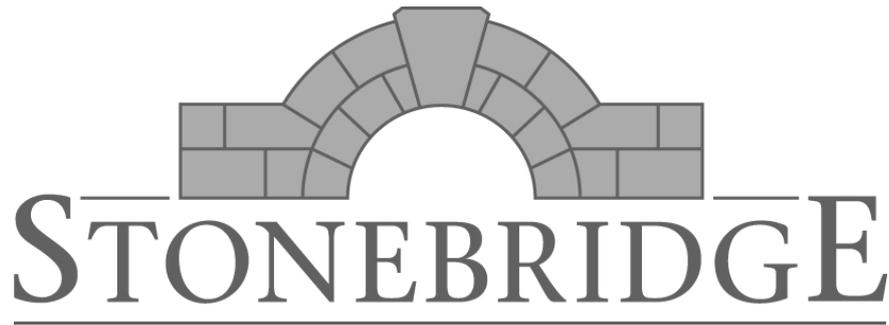


## 1. PLAY READY GOLF

Ready Golf has been incorporated into the 2019 R&A Rules book and can take many forms including

- Hitting a shot when safe to do so if a player in your group is farther away and faces a challenging shot and is taking time to assess their options
- Shorter hitters playing first from the tee or fairway if longer hitters have to wait
- Hitting a tee shot if the person with the honour is delayed in being ready to play
- Hitting a shot before helping someone to look for a lost ball
- Hitting a shot if a person who has just played from a greenside bunker is still farthest from the hole but is delayed due to raking the bunker
- When a player's ball has gone over the back of a green, any player closer to the hole but chipping from the front of the green should play while the other player is having to walk to their ball and assess their shot
- Leave your bag where you intend to leave the green rather than where you get on to it. You may need to mark your ball to allow others to play whilst you do this.
- Study your next shot while others are preparing for theirs, both on and off the green
- Consider putting out a short putt even if it means standing close to someone else's line
- If you cannot score, pick up your ball
- Marking scores upon immediate arrival at the next tee, except that the first player to tee off marks their card immediately after teeing off

**If you are ready to play and it is safe to do so... then play!**



## **2. PLAY A PROVISIONAL BALL**

If a player considers there may be a chance that their ball is either lost or out of bounds, play a provisional ball.

Remember, you only have 3 minutes to search for a ball under the new rules.

Playing the provisional ball reduces the time it would take to walk back to the tee, play another ball and then walk on to catch up your playing partners.

## **3. ALLOW GROUP BEHIND TO PLAY THROUGH**

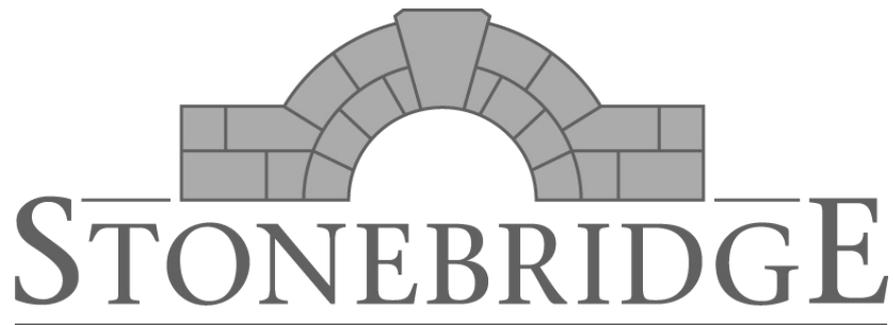
It is you and your groups responsibility to be aware of your position on the golf course in relation to others and how you may be impacting their game.

If you are keeping up with the group in front, you will rarely be accused of slow play. If you are losing ground on the group in front it is your groups responsibility to make up the ground as quickly as possible. If this isn't possible, you can simply allow the group behind through.

This is to ensure the quicker group can enjoy their round and you and your group don't have the pressure and worry of time, increasing the enjoyment for both groups.

NOTE – it has come to our attention that some groups have not been letting single players through as they believe they “have no standing on the course”. This situation was eliminated from the Rules of Golf several years ago and single golfers have the same rights on the course as any other size group.

**If a group behind is playing faster than you, call them through.**



### CARE OF THE COURSE

The Greens Team carry out essential daily and long-term maintenance on the course 7 days a week. As Golfers we can greatly assist the Greens Team and in turn help improve the condition of the course by doing the following:

- Make use of the boxes provided near the Tee that contains a seed mix to fill any divot holes created on the tees
- Replace any divots you create on the fairways – if possible, make it a point to replace one other divot as well as your own
- Repair any pitch marks you make on the green – if possible, make it a point to repair at least one other pitch mark on the green as well as your own
- When raking the bunker, leave the bunker in a better condition to how you found it

**If we all take extra little steps and care, then the condition of the course will benefit for all.**

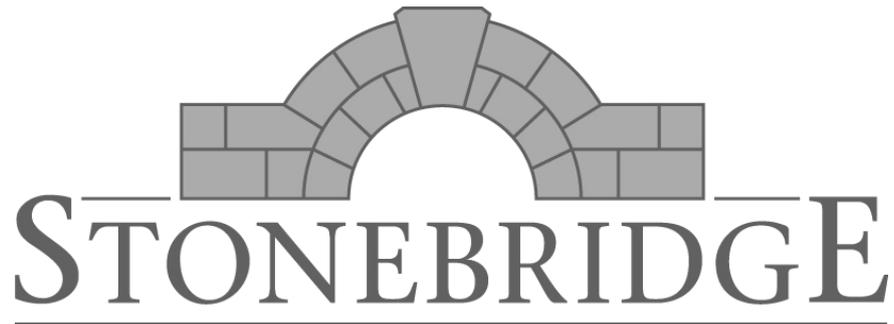
### DRESS CODE

At Stonebridge we have a 'relaxed and welcoming' dress code. We still expect golfers to be mindful of the traditional standards but also understand that the dress code must mirror the modern-day trends.

We still class the following items to be unacceptable on our Golf Course – denim clothing, cargo/combat trousers, football or beach shorts, tracksuits or any sports jerseys.

We do ask that Golf Shoes are worn at all times on the Golf Course. We consider golf shoes to be any shoe specifically designed and sold for golfing use. Trainers will not be permitted.

Please be aware our Golf Team and Marshalls reserve the right to refuse access to the course if our dress code is not adhered to.



**All the information in this document will help towards ensuring every visit and round of Golf with us, is an enjoyable one.**

**Below is a short summary of the main points you must adhere to.**

**PLAY READY GOLF**

Play when ready even if not your turn to play

**PLAY PROVISIONAL BALL**

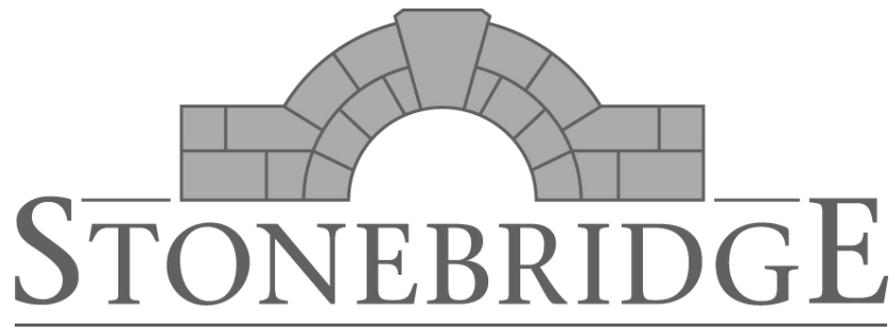
If a player feels their ball is either lost or may be OB, they must play a provisional.

**KEEP UP WITH THE GROUP IN FRONT RATHER THAN AHEAD OF THE GROUP  
BEHIND**

Be aware of your position on the course and how it could be affecting others behind you.

**IF YOU HAVE LOST A HOLE ALLOW THE GROUP BEHIND TO PLAY THROUGH**

Consider playing up to green at same time as the group you let through, allow them to putt out and go to next tee, then putt out yourselves – this will minimise impact of other groups following.



## Back 9 Tee Times

When booking your golf at Stonebridge you are automatically allocated a back 9 tee time.  
Your time is allocated like so:

When playing the **Hampton** your back 9 time is **2 hours** after your start time.

When playing the **Blythe** your back 9 time is **2 hours 8 minutes** after your start time.

When playing the **Somers** your back 9 time is **2 hours 8 minutes** after your start time.

If you come round early for your back 9 then priority is given to those with a booked tee time for their front 9. Playing your back 9 will not ever give you priority over those with a front 9 time that is booked on the tee sheet.

The tee sheet is designed to take into account varying conditions and situations to allow yours and other groups golf to run smoothly, if you try to push in on the back 9 you are potentially slowing play up for yourselves and other course users.

If you come round for your back 9 early you can check with the Pro Shop if there is a free slot before your back 9 time if not you are required to stick to your back 9 time.

If you are late for your back 9 time and the tee is not available, please report to the Pro Shop.

if you have any issues on the tee please contact the golf team and they will resolve any issues.