



Welcome to Golf

***A Simple Guide to
What you Need to
Know to Get
Started***

Based on the *Welcome to Golf* publication with permission from the National Golf Foundation.

Welcome

Are you new to the game of golf? Welcome! Now that you've chosen to play golf, you've decided to enjoy a sport that offers the opportunity to challenge yourself, develop friendships, and have a fun and exciting time.

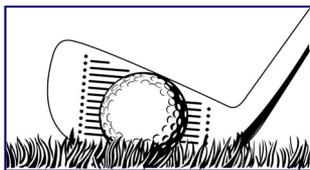
With a basic set of clubs, a competent teacher, and some time for practice, you'll quickly be on your way to having some great times on the golf course.

The National Golf Foundation (www.ngf.org) offers the following four basic steps to get you started:

- 1. Know your expectations**
- 2. Learn the basics of the game**
- 3. Let quick and courteous play be your guide**
- 4. Establish a regular pattern of play.**



Getting Started: First Things First



“Many people think that the first thing to do to get started with golf is to buy some golf clubs. Wait.”

While all three of the Loveland courses offer full pro shops to assist you with your club fitting and purchase, there are some steps to take before you invest in clubs.

Recommended Steps

THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO GET OUT OF GOLF: What’s fun for you? Do you want to play mostly for fun or to achieve results?

USE YOUR EXPECTATIONS: For example, if *results* are your foremost goal, plan to contact a professional teacher to develop a highly structured learning program. Playing for *fun* may begin with a more gradual, less formal start.

VISIT A GOLF COURSE: Go with a friend who is playing golf and walk or ride along to observe. Become familiar with the pro shop and how to make a tee time and pay your greens fees. Ask when the best times to play are for a new golfer; inquire about special lessons for beginners; figure out the green fees you’ll be paying; find out how early you need to report for your tee time.

Visit the other various practice areas on the courses including the driving range and putting green. Some course also have specialized areas for chipping practice.

Learning to Play

“Now that you’ve decided what you want to get out of golf and have visited a golf course, you’re ready to start learning how to play the game.”

Each Loveland golf course offers you unique opportunities to learn the game of golf. .

Recommended Steps

FIND A TEACHER: The best way to learn to golf is NOT from your friends. All three Loveland golf courses have teaching professionals on staff. Lessons are offered for individuals or in group settings. You’ll learn more than just how to swing a club; you’ll find out information on the etiquette and rules of the game and can get assistance on equipment selection and purchase.

HAVE YOUR LESSONS INCLUDE INSTRUCTION ON THE COURSE AS WELL AS THE PRACTICE AREA: Combining practice with play will help you learn, minimize frustration, and allow you to enjoy the game sooner.

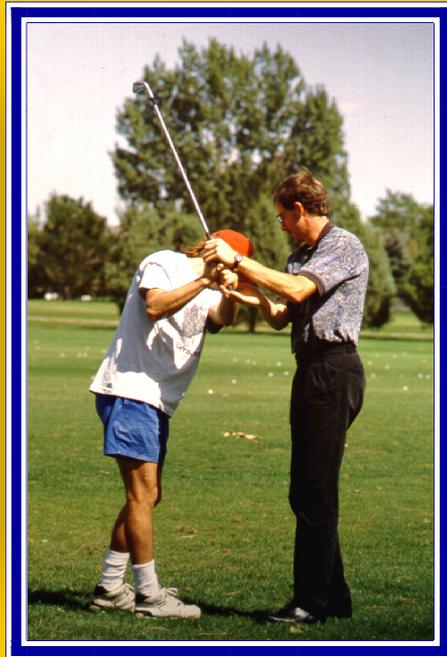
LEARN THE SWINGS FROM THE SHORTEST TO THE LONGEST: Good instruction usually starts with putts. And with putts accounting for about half your shots out on the course, this is a great place to start. After you learn putts, move on to the shots needed to reach the green; the pitch, the chip and some bunker shots. Then it is finally time for the more difficult shots with your woods and irons.

REMEMBER IT’S NOT HOW MANY CLUBS YOU BUY



OR HOW MUCH YOU PAY FOR THEM THAT'S IMPORTANT, BUT THAT THEY FIT YOU. A full set is fourteen clubs. However, a new golfer does not need that many. A "starter" set will get the job done. Each club is designed to hit the ball differently. A 9-iron, for instance, hits a short, high shot. A 5-iron hits a longer, lower shot. The woods hit the longest shots.

PLAY! PRACTICE! PLAY! There is a variety of places for you to practice and play. Try out Loveland's driving ranges and other practice facilities. Loveland also offers two regulation courses, Mariana Butte and The Olde Course at Loveland and one Par 3 Course, Cattail Creek. Cattail Creek is a 9 hole course, but all holes are par 3s. You'll use all your golf skills, but less of the maximum distance swings.



Playing the Game

“Most experienced golfers do not mind playing with a new golfer so long as you play quickly and courteously.

There are a number of specifics relating to quick and courteous play, but the Golden Rule provides the framework: Do to others as you would have them do to you.”

The Loveland golf courses encourage a round time of
4 hours 25 minutes or less at The Olde Course
4 hours 30 minutes or less at Mariana Butte
And 1 hour forty-five minutes or less at Cattail Creek

Recommended Steps

PLAY QUICKLY BUT WITHOUT RUSHING: Even though you are a beginner, pace your play to keep up with the players ahead of you. Be ready to hit when it is your turn. Play slows when golfers take too long between shots or are not ready when their turn comes.

On the Tee: Play from whatever set of tee markers fits your skill level. Keep in mind, most beginners utilize the forward tees. Using



the teeing area that fits your skill makes golf more fun and not as frustrating.

On the Fairway: Have the right club with you when you walk away from your bag. If you're not sure, take 2 or 3 clubs to your ball. If you run into a lot of trouble on a golf hole, feel free to pick up your ball and walk down the fairway to where you can hit a shot to the green and continue the hole from there. (Tournament play withstanding). Save time looking for lost balls by watching your shot and visually marking the position of the ball with an object like a tree, bush or other distinct feature.

On the Green: Repair your ball mark first and another one or two! The golfer farthest from the hole putts first. Plan your putt while you wait. Leave the green immediately when play is completed.

BE COURTEOUS TO OTHER GOLFERS AND THE GOLF COURSE: You may have heard about "etiquette" on the golf course. This merely means that you act with correct behavior towards the course and other golfers. While, as a beginner, you don't need to know the technicalities of every rule yet, learn the basics. Learn what you can and cannot do on the teeing ground, in the fairway, and on the putting green. Rules regarding order of play, unplayable lies, lost balls and out of bounds are also important. Your best resource to learn the rules of the game is your golf professional or books for the beginning golfer.



Game of a Lifetime

“Golf reminds us to live simply, yet with purpose. Plan your shot. Clear your mind. Swing. Watch the result. Move on.”

Golf is a game...it challenges, excites, teaches, and rewards. But most of all—it’s fun!”



***Go Out there
and play!***