

## Defining the Ninety-Degree Rule

The 90-degree rule is one of the basics of golf cart etiquette. It means that a golfer must stay on the paved cart path until they are in line with their golf ball. In other words, the golfer can't just drive straight from the tee box to the fairway. Sometimes golfers will pick a spot right after the tee box where they can "beeline" to their ball. This spot becomes popular, everyone takes it, and then the grass gets worn down creating unattractive tracks and patterns. For Golf Course Superintendents, it's hard to keep grass alive in these areas, and it creates brown spots or even patches of dirt at the start of every fairway. Obey all signage they have put on the course.

### When the 90-degree rule is in effect, it means that:

- ✓ Golfers should keep the cart on the paths as much as possible.
- ✓ They can drive to their ball from a 90-degree or a right angle from the cart path.
- ✓ After they hit their shot, they should not drive on the fairway to reach their ball's next position. Instead, they should go back to the cart path.

The 90-degree rule is not hard to follow, and once you get used to it, you won't know any other way. As an added benefit, you may notice that the golf course you play is in better condition. Also, keep in mind that part of playing the game of golf is respecting other players. If you don't want a lie that is all flattened out by golf carts, do your fair share to stay off the fairway as much as possible.

### Other "Should Be" Obvious Thoughts

#### Never Drive Golf Carts up onto Tee Boxes or Greens

Breaking this rule could get you thrown off the course. All golf carts must stay on the cart paths when near greens or tee boxes. Par three's are always cart path only. Tees and greens cost a lot of time, energy, and money to maintain, so it's crucial to obey this rule.

#### Keep Golf Carts out of all Bunkers

Again, this may seem like simple common sense, but it must be mentioned. Carts are not allowed in a bunker or even near bunker slopes. Neglecting this rule will get you banned from the course.

#### Take It Around the Back

As a courtesy to the group behind you, drive the golf cart on the path toward the back of the green before walking to the green to putt. Mark your scores at the next tee. This speeds play, since the next group will not be forced to wait while you clear the area.

