



INTERNATIONAL GOLF FEDERATION

Golf Definitions

TERM	DEFINITION
Address	The position of one's body taken just before the golfer hits the ball. A player has "addressed the ball" when he/she has grounded his/her club immediately in front of or immediately behind the ball, whether or not he/she has taken his/her stance.
After hole	See "thru".
Aggregate score	See "total score".
Albatross	See "double eagle".
Approach shot	The last shot that lands on or around the green, or in the hole, that does not begin on or around the green.
Apron	See "fringe".
Back nine	Holes 10 through 18.
Backspin	A reverse spin naturally imparted on the ball by a club (other than a putter) when a stroke is made, which can cause the ball to stop quickly when it lands and often move in the opposite direction.
Backswing	The backward portion of the swing prior to making a stroke at the ball.
Birdie	A score of 1 under par for a hole.
Bogey	A score of 1 over par for a hole.
Bunker	A hazard consisting of a prepared area of ground, often a hollow, from which turf or soil has been removed and replaced with sand or the like. Also unofficially referred to as a "sandtrap".
Caddie	A person who assists the player in accordance with the rules, which may include carrying or handling the player's clubs during play. The caddie may give the player advice. Caddies are not eligible to win a medal in the Olympic Games and are a specially credentialed type of coach through the respective athlete's NOC.
Caddie bib	A bib worn by each player's caddie that conforms to IGF specifications, containing the name and NOC of the player, at a minimum. The colour of the bib is set for each competitor by the IGF and displayed on a number of outputs.
Carry	The distance which the player intends a ball to travel in the air on a particular shot before it touches the ground.
Carry board	See "standard".

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Choke down	To grip lower on the club than normal for the purpose of playing a particular type of stroke.
Clubhead	The part of the golf club affixed at the end of the shaft which is used to strike the ball. The hitting area of the clubhead is called the clubface.
Collar	See "fringe".
Competitor	A player in a stroke-play competition.
Course	The course is the whole area within any boundaries established by the IGF consisting of 18 holes.
Course set-up official	The official responsible for choosing hole lengths and establishing the teeing grounds at each hole.
Cup	See "hole".
DD1 DD2	Refers to the titles on some reports - DD1 means "driving distance one" and DD2 means "driving distance two". During each round of the competition there are two holes chosen to collect official driving distance statistics. These are holes where competitors are most likely to hit a driver and face opposite directions in order to minimize the effect of wind.
Disqualification	A penalty applied under the rules of golf, by the IGF under its regulations and conditions of competition, or by the IOC, that removes a player from the competition, thus making the player ineligible to be ranked or to win a medal.
Dimple	The small round indentations on the golf ball which exist to improve the aerodynamic properties of the golf ball during flight.
Divot	A small area of disturbance to the ground left by the clubhead following a player's stroke, other than on the putting green.
Dogleg	A par-4 or par-5 hole that has a bend to the left or right as one plays from the teeing ground to the putting green.
Double bogey	A score of two over par for one hole.
Double eagle	A score of three under par for one hole. Also referred to as an "albatross".
Draw	When a right-handed player hits a controlled shot which moves from right to left during flight (opposite for a left-handed player).
Drive	The player's first shot from the teeing ground on a par-4 or par-5 hole.
Driving range	See "practice area".

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Driver	Generally, the longest and least-lofted club that a player carries to hit the ball the farthest. The driver is most often used for the first shot taken on a par-4 or par-5 hole.
Drop	A procedure prescribed by the rules of golf in certain situations in which a player holds the ball at knee height and drops it for the purpose of getting the ball into play during the play of a hole.
Eagle	A score of two under par on a hole.
Even	A term used to describe a player's score at a specific time that is equivalent to par for the holes/rounds played. It is denoted with the symbol "0" (the symbol "E" is often used in non-Olympic competitions).
Fade	When a right-handed player hits a controlled shot which moves from left to right during flight (opposite for a left-handed player).
Fairway	On a par-4 or par-5 hole, the area of ground between the teeing ground and the putting green on which the grass is prepared at a closely-mown height and on which the player is generally attempting to keep his/her ball as he/she plays from teeing ground to putting green.
First nine	See "front nine".
Flagstick	A movable straight indicator, normally with bunting or other material attached (i.e. a flag), centred in the hole to show its position. It must be circular in cross-section.
Follow-through	The continuation of the golf swing following a stroke.
Fringe	The closely mown area, cut slightly shorter than the fairway, just around the edge of the green.
Front nine	Holes one through nine.
Game	See "groupings".
Green	See "putting green".
Grip	Either the material surrounding the shaft on a club where the player holds the club, or the method by which the player holds his/her hands on the club.
Grounding the club	See "address".
Groupings	The published set of players that play together at a specific starting time in a group, set by round.
Hazard	A natural or man-made course feature typically filled with water ("water hazard") or sand ("bunker"). Hitting into a water hazard results in a penalty stroke for the player if he/she is unable to locate and hit his/her ball inside the hazard. A bunker carries no such penalty and must be played from.

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Hole	This term is used in two different ways: • The circular cut on each putting green on the competition course into which the player is attempting to get the ball in the fewest number of strokes. The hole must be 108mm in diameter and at least 101.6mm deep. Generally, the hole is positioned in a different location for each round. • Each defined area of play between each teeing ground and its associated putting green on the competition course on which the player advances his/her ball and counts his/her score. There are 18 holes, numbered one through 18 respectively.
Holed	A ball is "holed" when it is at rest within the circumference of the hole and all of it is below the level of the lip of the hole. Sometimes referred to as "in the hole".
Hole approach board	See "thru board".
Hole-in-one	A term used to describe a score of 1 on a hole, usually on a par-3 hole.
Hole location	A term used to describe the location of the hole on each putting green.
Honour	The player who is to play first in accordance with the rules from the teeing ground is said to have the "honour".
In	See "back nine".
Intermediate rough	A strip of grass bordering the fairway on one side and the rough on the other, normally mowed at an intermediate length between the fairway and rough heights.
Iron	A metal club with varying lofts used to hit the club a specific distance.
Leaderboard	This term is used in two ways: • The current listing of players as of a specific time based on score and ranked in order, with the player who has the lowest par-relative score listed first • A structure erected on the course which shows such a listing (either manually or electronically) along with information related to scoring, statistics, and other information. Also known as a "scoreboard".
Lie	A description of the conditions of the ground on which the player's ball is located.
Location	The current location of a specific group.
Main scoreboard	Generally located near hole 18 and the main activities centre, the main scoreboard displays individual hole by hole scores for each player for each round, as well as the leaderboard after the conclusion of each round. Also known as a "calligraphy board".
Margin	See "fringe".
Marker	A person appointed by the committee to record a competitor's score in stroke play. A marker is not a referee and is most commonly another player in the player's grouping.
Marshall	A volunteer who stands near the rope line throughout each hole to assist with play not being disrupted by the spectators and to spot golf balls.

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Notice to competitors	A document provided to players and NOCs which outlines the conditions for the competition and any local rules for the golf course. The notice to competitors supplements other documents applicable to the competition such as the IGF rules and regulations and the Olympic Charter. A copy of such notice is available on the starting tee prior to each player's round, in addition to other places.
Observer	A person who is appointed by the committee to assist a referee to decide questions of fact and to report to him any breach of a rule. An observer should not attend the flagstick, stand at, or mark the position of the hole, or lift the ball or mark its position.
Official notice board	A location where all official notices are posted by the IGF.
Official scorer	An IGF official to whom players return their scorecards at the end of each round. The official scorer verifies the scorecards and ensures that the hole-by-hole scores entered in the system, along with the total score for each player are correct and in accordance with the scorecards.
Official starter	An IGF official who manages the time at which each group starts on the starting tees (usually the first hole and sometimes additionally the 10th hole), in accordance with the groupings and starting times published by the IGF.
Order of play	See "groupings".
Out	Holes one through nine.
Pace of play	The time it takes a group to play the course. Pace of play is measured by hole and in total. The time it takes a group to play each hole, and the total time it takes the group to play the course for a given round are measured and compared against an established baseline.
Pairing	A grouping of two players. See "groupings".
Par	The pre-determined number of strokes that an elite golfer should require to complete a single hole. Holes are typically listed as "Par-3", "Par-4" and "Par-5". The sum of the par values for each hole is the par for the course.
Par-3	A hole on which a player is generally expected to reach the putting green from the teeing ground with one stroke, leaving two additional putts to make a par.
Par-4	A hole on which a player is generally expected to reach the putting green from the teeing ground with two strokes, leaving two additional putts to make a par.
Par-5	A hole on which a player is generally expected to reach the putting green from the teeing ground with three strokes, leaving two additional putts to make a par.
Par-relative score	A positive or negative integer, including zero, used to describe the player's score at any given moment in relation to par for that player at that moment. For example, if a player on the first hole of a competition scores one better stroke than the par for that hole, his/her par-relative score is "-1". In the example, the symbol "-X" would be described as "X strokes under par". Alternatively, the symbol "+X" would be described as "X strokes over par". The symbol "0" would be described as "even par".

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Penalty stroke	A "penalty stroke" is one added to the score of a player under certain rules.
Pin	An unofficial term that can either refer to the "hole location" or the "flagstick".
Practice area	An area off the course where players practice, normally consisting of a driving range, putting green and short game area.
Practice ground	See "practice area".
Practice putting green	See "practice area".
Producer	An IGF technical official who works with the On Venue Results (OVR) provider to review the scoring data within the system and resolve any discrepancies.
Provisional ball	A ball played in accordance with the rules for a ball that may be lost outside a water hazard or may be out of bounds.
Putter	A club with a loft not exceeding ten degrees designed primarily for use on the putting green.
Putting green	The smooth grassy area, which is specifically prepared for putting, and on which the hole is placed.
Referee	An international or national technical official appointed by the IGF to decide questions of fact and apply the rules of golf. A referee must act on any breach of a rule that he/she observes or is reported to him. Also referred to as a "rules official".
Rough	Area of grass on each hole outside of the intermediate rough which is generally maintained at a longer height.
Round	For an individual player, a round consists of playing the holes of the course in their correct sequence. A round consists of 18 holes, unless otherwise authorised by the IGF. For the competition, the term round is also used to describe all players playing 18 holes in a given set of groupings and starting times as determined by the IGF. There are four scheduled rounds in the Olympic golf competition.
Rules official	See "referee".
Sandtrap	See "bunker".
Score	Used to describe the cumulative number of strokes taken by a player: • On any one hole • During any one round • At any point during or after the competition on a cumulative basis for the number of rounds completed.
Scoreboard	See item 2 in "leaderboard".
Scrambling	When a player misses the green in regulation, but still makes par or better on a hole.
Second nine	See "back nine".

TERM	DEFINITION
Segment	A term used to define a logical portion of the groupings for a given round. A field of 60 players who all start on one tee will have one segment. A field of 60 players who start on two tees will have two segments.
Shaft	A cylindrical rod connecting the grip and the clubhead on a club.
Short game area	See "practice area".
Shot	See "stroke".
Stance	Taking the stance consists of a player placing his/her feet in position for, and preparatory to, making a stroke.
Standard	A small sign indicating the names of the players in a group and their current par-relative scores. Such a sign is carried by a "standard bearer".
Standard bearer	A volunteer who walks with each group carrying a small sign indicating the names of the players in a group and their current par-relative scores.
Starter's box	A box which holds paper documents, tees, pencils, and other pertinent items which is placed on the starting tees during the starting times.
Starting times	The published set of times by the IGF at which each group is to start playing their round from the starting tee.
Stimpmeter	A device used to measure the speed of a golf course putting green by applying a known force to a golf ball and measuring the distance travelled in feet.
Stroke	The forward movement of the club made with the intention of striking at and moving the ball. Such an action is counted as "1 stroke" for the purposes of recording the cumulative number of strokes on a given hole that a player has taken.
Stroke play	A stroke-play competition consists of players completing each hole of a stipulated round or rounds and, for each round, returning a scorecard on which there is a score for each hole. Each player plays against every other player in the competition. The player who plays the stipulated round or rounds in the fewest number of strokes is the winner.
Team leader	Representative who assists players from the same National Olympic Committee (NOC).
Tee	Either: • A small device designed to raise the ball off the ground on the teeing ground • An unofficial term for "teeing ground".
Teeing ground	The starting place for each hole to be played. It is typically a rectangular area two club-lengths in depth, the front, and the sides of which are defined by the outside limits of two tee-markers.
Tee-off	The act of a player or players starting a particular hole.
Tee times	See "starting times".

TERM	DEFINITION
Thru	A term used to explain a player's score or location following completion of a certain hole (i.e. thru 9).
Thru board	A small scoreboard showing the group's score after completion of the previous hole located on the current hole.
Time par groupings	A document that lists, by grouping and starting time, the expected time that a group should finish each hole.
Time par sheet	A document that lists the times required to complete each hole, and a total time for 18 holes, along with the pace of play policy.
Timing sheet	A document used by technical officials to record a player's time to make a stroke when being timed. The document includes the time par for each hole.
Total score	The cumulative score for the player at a specific time. Also referred to as "aggregate score".
Walking scorer	A volunteer who walks with each grouping and provides data to the On Venue Results (OVR) system using a data collector and a radio.
Water hazard	A "water hazard" is any sea, lake, pond, river, ditch, surface drainage ditch, or other open water course (whether or not containing water) and anything of a similar nature on the course, defined under the rules of golf and to which special rules and procedures apply. A player's objective is to keep the ball out of a water hazard.
WD	Abbreviation used in the scoring system to represent a player who has "withdrawn".
Withdrawn	When a player has started the competition but did not finish for any reason other than being subject to "disqualification".
Wood	A club with a large head and a lower loft, primarily used for longer shots.
Yardage book	A small booklet which is used by players and caddies to determine how far the player's ball is from the hole on a given shot.