

## **GENERAL CADDIE INFORMATION**

The caddie must fulfill a number of different roles. The successful caddie understands that they don't just carry the Professional Golfers' bag around the course. They also understand that they must develop a good relationship not only with their primary employer (the Professional Golfer) , but the other caddies in their group, the walking scorer, the caddie master not to mention the Public.

This section is devoted to identifying some of these roles plus suggestions on what issues may arise and how to deal with them. This is not an exhaustive list, but will serve to prepare the caddie for an upcoming Professional Golfers tournament.

Caddies with no tournament experience should find these suggestions helpful as they prepare for the event.

Caddies with tournament experience will undoubtedly have developed their own style and this document will serve only as a reminder. Constructive criticism is always welcome.

Most of these suggestions are common sense. "Treat others as you would have them treat you" is a good motto.

Of course, everyone will apply their own personality and experience to the Caddie position. It is important to remember that for the Professional Golfer, this is their livelihood. Some are quite serious and introspective, while others are more outgoing and gregarious. Everyone has their own way of dealing with the stress of playing golf for money.

As caddies, we must respect this and mold the relationship to accommodate the Professional Golfer. We should not expect that the Professional Golfer will change to suit us or our personality. Keep in mind that they travel to a different venue every week. They will have a different caddie with different experience every week.

Having said all this, please remember to "HAVE FUN". ☺ It is a tremendous experience to be "behind the ropes" watching exceptional golf being played right before our eyes. The Professional Golfer understands that he is employing a "Non-Professional Caddie".

### **A. Professional Golfer – Items to consider.**

- When first introduced, be honest with your golfer about your experience. Show enthusiasm and a sincere desire to always act in their best interest.
- Discuss what the Golfer's expectations are:
  - When to show up (e.g. 1 hour before tee time).
  - Ask to trade phone numbers, so that you can connect if there is any change.
  - Any particulars about the bag. Are they specific about where clubs are located? Where other items are located (e.g. balls, tees, extra clothes, etc).
  - Grip cleaning. Usually every day, unless specified. Typically this can be done on the practice range prior to the round. Carry a towel that is wet on one end. Rub the grip up and down a few times. Dry the club. If it is damp, let it stand against the bag to dry quicker.
  - Does the Golfer want you to suggest a club? Typically, no. The Golfer is very familiar with how far they hit each club. Remember that we are at about 3,000 feet above sea level in Calgary. Some "calibrate" at about 7 percent. That means that if they have a 100 yard shot, they would use about 93 yards "sea level" shot as their benchmark.
  - Usually the Golfer wants to confirm yardage. Learn how to read the detailed

Yardage Book. This is available from the Caddie Master prior to the Tournament (there sometimes is a fee). Pace off yardage from a relevant point (e.g. sprinkler head, edge of bunker, etc.). Remember that the Golfer may want 2 numbers; one to the front edge of the green and the other to the pin. There will be a Pin Placement sheet each day. Use that to get exact yardage to the Pin. [Sprinkler head yardages are always to the centre of the green, so do not use this automatically.]

- Does the Golfer want you to help read putts? Again, typically no. However, he may want a confirmation of the break direction or grain. If you aren't sure, say so.
- Ask the Golfer how they prefer to "talk" during the round. Do they want to be left alone or do they want to chat? Don't take it personally.
- Does the Golfer want any swing thought reminders? For example, the word "Tempo" might be helpful. Also ask about when to say this. Every shot? Only on tee shots? Just as they step up to the ball?
- Avoid negatives, **TOTALLY**. If you are discussing a shot, identify the wind, yardage and other factual and observed information. Say something like "Keep the ball below the hole", rather than "Don't go right".

## **B. Other Caddies – Items to consider.**

- When first introduced, be honest with other caddies about your experience. If you are the "Senior Caddie" in the group while the others are inexperienced, try to take the initiative and discuss relevant etiquette.
- Establish "Who Takes the Pin". Usually, the caddie whose golfer is farthest from the pin will initially take the pin. Sometimes the pin is then passed to the caddie whose Golfer is closest to the hole. That caddie will then replace the flag once the hole is completed by all players.
- If they require you to tend the pin, be aware of where you stand. Consider where each of the Golfer's balls is located so that you do not stand directly on their line. Also check where the shadows fall. You want to be on the same side of the hole where the pin shadow falls. Test the pin before the Golfer putts to ensure it will come out easily. A suggestion is to actually remove it from the hole and place the pin at the back of the hole. From the Golfer's perspective the pin is still in the hole; it's just not stuck in the actual hole.
- What about Bunkers? Greenside bunkers require some caddie courtesy. If your Golfer is in the bunker, your responsibility is to rake the trap once the Golfer has completed the shot and has left the bunker. [Be careful if there is another Golfer in the same bunker. Do not rake until all Golfers are out of that bunker.] Typically your Golfer will then proceed to the green while you rake the trap. One of the other caddies should offer to clean the ball of your Golfer. You can return the favor on another hole.
- Be careful where you stand, especially on the greens. Do not place yourself in their "line of sight". When they are hitting the ball, step back about 10 feet unless your Golfer tells you otherwise. The same goes for where you leave the Bag around the green.
- Try to keep your clubs "quiet"; Put your hand over the irons when you carry the bag or drape your towel over the irons.
- When waiting for any Golfer to play, keep your bag still and under control. Do not leave it standing unattended. It could fall down at a very inopportune time.
- Watch the other caddies to potentially help them. Watch each of the Golfer's balls and try to help find the ball if required. If the caddie drops a towel or head cover, pick it up or identify it quickly. All caddies appreciate a bit of assistance now and then.