

## Bunkers

Bunkers (previously known as sand traps) are specially prepared areas of the course that contain sand. The course designer intended for them to be difficult to hit out of, and new players often struggle with getting their ball out of the bunkers in just one shot.

The location of the bunkers will dictate how we refer to them: Greenside bunkers are located near the putting green, and fairway bunkers are everywhere else.

In our clinic, we discuss your options to take relief for an unplayable ball that is lying in a bunker. This is a subject that I guarantee you will get some disagreement on from other players as many seasoned golfers do not have a good grasp on the updated bunker rules. After learning this rule in our clinic you can be confident in your knowledge of this option for penalty relief and you'll be empowered to have good course management and efficient pace-of-play.

### ***Bunker Etiquette:***

- Try to enter bunkers from the lowest section of the bunker that is near your ball. (This means, the easiest way in that is still close to your ball.) This will keep your raking/clean up to a minimum.
- After you have hit your shot, rake your footprints (and all evidence you were there) as smoothly as possible by pushing the rake away from you.
- Each golf course will have a preferred location to place the rakes. Some like them left outside the bunkers, running parallel with the bunkers, and other courses prefer the rakes be placed inside the bunkers with the handles just a few inches out of lip of the bunker. *(This is one of the things you'll ask when you arrive at a course, along with where the golf course restrooms are located!)*
- It's a good idea to tap the bottom of your shoes with your golf club as you exit the bunker to remove the sand that can stick to them. This will prevent another player from having inference from sand if their ball lands where you had tracked sand onto the rough or other grass.

