

Lake Forest Country Club – Golf Tips

Repairing Ball Marks

Ball marks, those indentations caused when a ball lands sharply on a soft green, have been ruining good putts since the days of Old Tom Morris. Unrepaired ball marks take two to three weeks to properly heal, leaving behind unsightly, uneven putting surfaces. On the other hand, a repaired ball mark only takes half that time to heal. As a club member or guest of LFCC, beginner or pro, it is your responsibility as a golfer to fix your own marks. If you're truly a stalwart of the game, you'll fix any others you see while your partners are putting. There's really not much to it, but there are a few guidelines you should follow when making these repairs.

The right way to fix a mark

- Use a ball mark repair tool (also called a divot repair tool or greens repair tool) whenever possible. They are available free at the LFCC Golf Pro Shop. Use a knife, key or tee only when a standard repair tool is not available.
- Insert the tool into the turf behind the ball mark on the higher side. Do not insert in the middle of the depression. Push the tool forward from the edge of the ball mark toward the center. Do this around the edges of the indentation.
- Be sure to gently lift the dent upward from underneath, and try not to tear the grass.
- Bring the edges together with a gentle twisting motion, but do not lift the center.
- Smooth the surface with your club, foot or hand. Avoid the common mistake of lifting or pushing up the center of the indentation which separates the roots from the soil. The job is complete when it's a surface you would want to putt over.

Tips to Remember:

1. If your ball mark has actually displaced a piece of turf, do not replace it. Just work around the edges with your repair tool as normal. The replaced turf will simply die, delaying the healing process.
2. Pushing the tines of your repair tool under the indented area and pushing up simply damages the root system.
3. You not only should always repair your ball marks, but, time permitting, you should repair any other ball marks you see, too.