Free Golf Tips

Your first round, on one card

Fold it, pocket it, and play. The job is to finish the round, not to look like you have played for years.

1 Before you leave

- Balls you can see against grass, a few more than you think.
- A handful of tees, a ball marker or coin, a pencil.
- A glove and a towel if you have them.
- Leave the gadgets at home. A small bag means fewer choices.

2 On the tee

- Tee off with the club that passed your ten-ball check at the range. A hybrid or a 7-iron is fine; the driver can stay in the bag.
- Aim at the wide part of the short grass, not the flag.
- While others hit: stand still, out of their line and where they can see you.

3 Every shot: the routine

1. **Pick a target.** One spot, not a general direction.
2. **One practice swing.** Feel the brush of the grass.
3. **Set up and go.** Club face to the target, feet parallel, then swing without a second look.

4 Around the green

- **Roll it when you can.** If the grass is short, putt it.
- **Fly it when you must.** Use a short chip when grass or sand is in the way.
- Don't walk on anyone's line between the ball and the hole. Mark your ball before you lift it.

5 Keep it moving

- Play ready golf: whoever is ready and safe hits.
- Look for a lost ball only briefly, then drop one and play on.
- On a bad hole, pick up and enjoy the next one; agree a maximum score with the group.
- Write the score at the next tee, not on the green.

6 Words you'll hear

Fore	Warning shout: a ball is heading toward people.
Address	Standing to the ball, ready to swing.
Lead side	The side nearer the target.
Par	The expected score for a hole.
Fairway	The short grass between tee and green.
Rough	The longer grass beside it.
Chip	A short shot that rolls more than it flies.
Divot	Turf taken by a swing; replace or repair it.
Honours	Who hits first on a tee.
Gimme	A short putt the group agrees counts as holed.