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Playing Through: A Guide to the Unwritten Rules of Golf **by Peter Post**

“People take the measure of each other according to how they conduct themselves on the golf course.” — Peter Post

BURLINGTON, VT— What really frustrates golfers? Slow play, a player’s lack of manners, slow play, cell phones on the course, slow play, golf cart commandos, walking on a golfer’s line and...did we mention slow play?

In *Playing Through: A Guide to the Unwritten Rules of Golf* (Collins; August, 2008; \$19.95), real-life anecdotes provide the scenery for etiquette advice surrounding one of sport’s more dignified games.

“Books exist on how to help a golfer develop a better swing, and there are beautiful coffee table books on the world’s gorgeous courses. But until *Playing Through*, few books have looked at the unwritten rules of behavior that govern every green,” says Post.

Post surveyed hundreds of golfers to confirm which actions and attitudes rankle, irritate and impress on the golf course. Through the survey, Post identified the top behaviors that frustrate golfers. Each chapter examines a different annoying behavior and gives advice on how to deal with it.

The number one complaint from golfers is slow play. Two-thirds of survey respondents railed against it. *Playing Through* is a directive to golfers to pick up the pace.

How? Peter's advice: Be ready to play through should you be asked to do so, play "ready golf," avoid excess practice swings, mentally prepare for your next shot as you approach your ball, and be on time for your tee time. Post also provides the perfect solution for asking to play through without annoying the slow golfer in front of you.

Playing Through also includes:

- Top ten behaviors of golfers with bad manners
- Strategies for combating slow play
- Tips on playing through quickly
- What to do when you hit into other golfers or another golfer hits into you?
- Dealing with temper tantrums on the course
- The "no four-putt" rule and what is an acceptable "gimmee"
- Clueless cart drivers
- Dealing with cheaters
- Who not to coach
- Nassaus, Baseball and Bingo Bango Bongo
- How to be a spectator at your local tournament or at a professional event

Golf purists may disagree with Post's advice in Chapter 19 (Fun Golf vs. Serious Golf: When to Cut Some Slack). While he pays homage to the purity of the handicap system, he absolves golfers who take liberties with the rules—such as mulligans or the no four-putt rule—from angsting about entering their scores in the handicap system. The new golfer who may be confused by the disparity between the spirit of the game and the reality of golfers entering scores after having taken liberties such as lift, clean and place, divot relief, the leaf-ball, and mulligans. "If golfers only entered scores for rounds that strictly followed the rules, very few rounds would be entered." says Post. "Bending the rules happens, with good reason." His group's occasional use of the no four-putt rule preserves the fun of the game for everyone. "Having a horrendous putting day is a near-universal experience and it impacts the rest of a foursome and the pace of play," he adds. "When a good time is marred by the travails of a fellow golfer who's off his game, it's time to offer him an adjustment—even if this means bending the rules." .

Peter wrote *Playing Through* to help people enjoy their time on the golf course even more. “Sure, golf is about playing the game well. But, the pleasure I get out of golf is being able to enjoy the experience with good friends and being able to make new friends. I could play the most magnificent course and have a terrible time because the other players or staff are rude. Suddenly, a potentially great day is spoiled. That’s why golf etiquette is so important to me.”

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About the Author:

Peter Post is the great-grandson of Emily Post and an author, seminar presenter and avid golfer (with a 17 handicap). He is a director of The Emily Post Institute, based in Burlington, Vermont. His previous books include the *New York Times* bestseller *Essential Manners for Men*, *The Etiquette Advantage in Business*, *Essential Manners for Couples* and *A Wedding Like No Other*. On Thursday afternoons in the summer, Peter can be found with his long-standing foursome at the Burlington Country Club, where he is a member and past board president. He is also a member of the Edgartown Golf Club in Massachusetts.

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by Peter Post

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