

Replacing Divots, Raking Bunkers, Protecting the Field

A message to TOUR caddies from the 2010 Caddie Advisory Committee

OK fellas, after watching the level of responsibility drop in recent years when it comes to caddie etiquette and course maintenance, your humble servants on the Caddie Advisory Committee have decided to start a little self-policing movement. This goes out especially to caddies who are new to the PGA TOUR, but also to you veterans who have gotten either complacent and/or lazy when it comes to two things in particular: RAKING BUNKERS and REPLACING DIVOTS.

Basically, we want to say this: There is NEVER an acceptable time to not replace or kick in a divot, and there is NEVER an acceptable time to not do a good job raking a bunker. This includes practice rounds; not just competition days. Whether the reason is your player is in a hurry to move on and you don't want to fall behind or maybe you have just never learned how to properly rake a bunker for Tour purposes, it doesn't matter. It's our responsibility and those of us who aren't doing the job (and these two

things are definitely big parts of the job) need to really pay more attention.

We realize most of us didn't know how to properly rake a bunker when we started on Tour, but we learned as we went. So for you new guys, it may not be your fault, but we all really need to learn the proper technique. We don't rake bunkers out here like you do at your home course when you were growing up. We don't simply rake over the footprints and club path and move

on. There actually is a correct process to raking a bunker out here, and we are all responsible for learning it. The first step is to smooth over the entire area your player touched with the back of the rake, not the teeth. Turn the rake over to its smooth side, alternately pushing and pulling sand into all of the footprints and the divot the club created until the sand's surface is very smooth and level (see images #2 and #3 below); no raised ridges or hollowed gouges. After you have done this, turn the rake



Image 1: Bunker after shot has been played



Image 2: Smoothing footprints and divot with flat side of rake



Image 3: Footprints and divot smoothed out

Replacing Divots, Raking Bunkers, Protecting the Field (cont.)

over to use the teeth. Keep your rake paths parallel to each other whenever possible to create the most uniform playing surface for the rest of the field (see images #4 and #5). We all have our buddies out here, and the best way to approach it is to act as if your best friend and his player are in the group behind you, and they are going to hit their ball in the exact same spot your guy just hit his. We all hate it when we find our player's ball in an unreplaced divot or bad rake job that ultimately costs us a shot or

two. This is something that is completely under our control. We can fix this. If you are new out here and you have any questions, find someone who has been out here awhile and ask! Any of us would be more than happy to help out with any questions you might have.

As far as divots go, it's very simple. Put it back and step on it. Help each other out by throwing divots back to each other to speed up the process. If it breaks up in flight and

can't really be replaced, kick in the sides of the divot with a club or your feet. This is something we all learned the first time we went out on a golf course when we were kids and it's nothing short of lazy when we don't do it out here.

We should look at this as our version of "protecting the field" by creating an even playing field for everyone in the tournament. You should remember that you are representing not just yourself and your player, but

the PGA TOUR and the great game of golf and should, therefore, always conduct yourselves with that in mind. Thanks.

2010 CADDIE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Don Cooper
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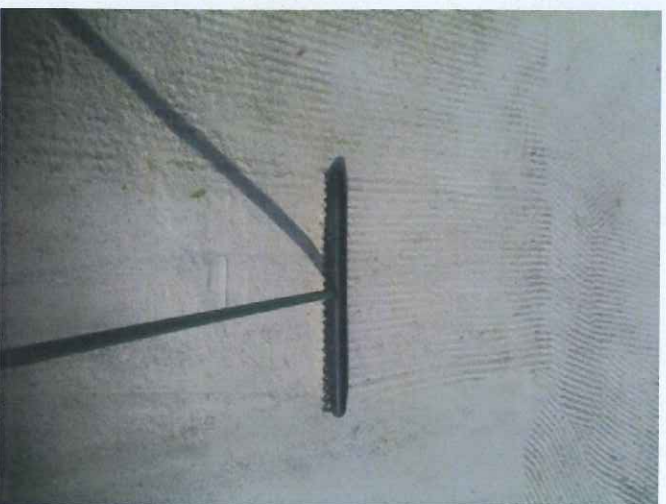


Image 4: Rake turned over and using teeth to rake over smoothed area



Image 5: Completed TOUR-quality rake job.



Image 6: Unacceptable rake job.