

Getting Started - Golf Equipment

Golf equipment is another area that can be confusing. Here are the main types of equipment you may need or want to have as you start playing golf. See the definitions for terms that may not be familiar.



Putter: The putter is the club in your bag that has a completely flat side and a flat base. Putter comes in all shapes, sizes and colors. Putter is intended to roll the ball along the ground and are typically used when on or near the green.



Iron: Irons are typically the thinnest club heads in your bag. A typical player's bag may have numerous irons numbered 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and/or P. Clubs with smaller numbers have less loft (point more horizontal, less "up in the air") and are longer. When playing a shot with a lower numbered club, it should travel further, fly lower and roll more than a higher numbered club.



Wedge: A "wedge" is a special type of iron used for hitting the shortest shots in golf. This club usually has an "S", "W", "L", or a number such as 55, 56, or 60 on it.



Hybrid club: This type of club is new in the last few years and is a cross between an iron and a fairway wood. Hybrids usually replace longer irons (3, 4, 5, 6 irons) or fairway woods.



Driver: A "driver" is typically the longest club in the bag. It is intended to advance the ball as far as possible. Drivers come in different lengths and degrees of loft, often written on the club (sometimes 10, 11, 12 or 13). This club requires the most skill to use and some newer golfers will find they hit other clubs further than a driver.



Fairway wood: Sometimes now called a fairway metal since they are now made from metal. The fairway wood is typically a rounded club and looks a bit like a smaller version of a driver. They often come numbered 3, 5, 7 and 9.

Definitions:

Grip: The part of the club you hold. Typically made of rubber.

Club head: The part of the club you hit the ball with.

Club face: The actual part of the club you want to hit the ball on. This is the flat part of the clubhead (which may be at an angle).

Shaft: The thing that connects the grip and the clubhead. Typically made of metal or graphite.