

Choosing the Right Golf Ball

Golf ball technology has advanced immensely in recent years and now finding the right ball for your game can be as advantageous as picking the right clubs. While many people are brand-loyal when it comes to balls, there are many different specifications that you should consider when choosing the right ball for you. Here are some important details to consider.

One-Piece Golf Balls

A one-piece golf ball is the most basic, and least expensive to produce, ball and is designed primarily for beginners, driving ranges and crazy-golf courses. It is seldom used as a playing ball.

Typically, one-piece balls are made from a solid piece of Surlyn with dimples moulded in. It is an inexpensive, soft and very durable golf ball, but does not give you the distance when hit because of its lower compression.

Two-Piece Golf Balls

The solid core is typically a high-energy acrylate or resin and is covered by a tough, cut-proof blended cover that gives the two-piece ball more distance than any other ball. These 'hard' balls are covered in either Surlyn, a specialty plastic or a similar kind of material.

The firmer feel of the golf ball does produce more distance to a player's game but will also not be as easily controlled as a softer ball. The two-piece is virtually indestructible and with its high roll distance, it is by far the most popular golf ball among ordinary golfers.

Three-Piece Golf Balls

Three-piece golf balls have either a solid rubber or liquid core, a layer of enhanced rubber or a liquid-produced layer and a moulded a cover of durable Surlyn, Urethane, or balata-like material.

They are softer and offer more spin, giving a better golfer more control over their ball flight. The more layers a manufacturer adds to a ball, the more spin-separation they can create, which means more customized performance for a driver compared to an iron or wedge. A three-piece ball is the first level of ball that will feature a noticeable spin-separation advantage.

Four-Piece Golf Balls

Each layer or piece in a four-piece ball has a specific and different purpose. All the layers work together to offer the longest hitting, softest feeling golf ball.

The inner core, the first layer, of the ball is the solid rubber centre that is primarily designed to offer explosive distance especially with a driver. The next, inner cover, layer is in the ball to transfer the energy from the strike to the hot core.

Next is the middle cover, which is the extra layer, compared to a three-piece ball. It offers the complete layer that tries to increase driver distance whilst also producing mid iron spin and feel around the green. The outer cover is where the feel of a golf ball comes from. Usually containing between 300-400 dimples, it is the thinnest layer. Made from Urethane it must be durable yet soft.

Five-Piece Golf Balls

The latest development in ball design is the five-piece ball. TaylorMade were the first to mass produce a five-piece ball when they released the Penta ball in 2009. Since then, several other major manufacturers have added a five-piece ball to their arsenal.

Much like a three or four-piece ball can use more materials and layers to offer more spin separation and performance benefits, the five-piece ball can do that even further. Whilst it will be the most expensive ball in the Pro Shop, the five-piece ball will offer the highest, Tour-level performance.

Typically a five-piece ball will feature three mantle layers, sandwiched between a high speed core and soft urethane cover. Each mantle layer will react to different shots and swing speeds in an effort to produce to the most optimised performance possible.

Low Spin Golf Balls

Lower spinning golf balls tend to decrease side spin of your shots, allowing the ball to fly straighter through the air. The ball may not travel as far in the air, but the lack of spin will result in increased roll upon landing. They are best-suited to players that slice the ball or struggle to find get distance on the ground.

Mid Spin Golf Balls

As the name suggests the mid spin golf ball bridges the gap between the low spinning golf ball and the high spinning balls. They try to incorporate the best of both distance and feel. Aimed towards the widest range of players and suitable to most players, the mid spinning ball will offer solid distance with varied feel and softness depending on brand. Almost all major golf ball manufacturers will produce a mid spinning golf ball that they believe is suitable to all players.

High Spin Golf Balls

Last is the high spinning golf ball. This ball is designed to increase the balls spin in the air. When a golf ball is hit, it is released into the air with a certain degree of backspin; a high spinning ball will increase this spin and create a longer carry. If you are a player that hits the ball right to left with a draw, a high spinning golf ball could be the one for you.

Out of control hook shots are produced by the drawspin overpowering the backspin on the ball; so increasing backspin will help straighten out a hook/draw. The high spinning golf ball will not get the run on the fairway that either a mid or low spinning ball can, however its greatest advantage is around the greens. A high spinning ball will increase feel around and on the greens, which will help players improve control.

Compression

Compression is a measure of the deflection a golf ball undergoes when it is struck. It is measured between 0 and 200, with 200 being a ball that does not compress and a 0 being a ball that deflects 5mm (1/5th of an inch) or more. Most golf balls range between 50 and 100 in compression.

Lower compression balls tend to be softer and compress more to create more distance. Higher compression balls offer more control and are used by better players who can produce faster swing speeds to compress the ball.

Choosing a Golf Bag

The first question to ask when purchasing a golf bag is do you carry your bag, use a pull cart, or take a riding cart? This will determine the type of bag that will work best for you. The size of bags is usually designated by the diameter of the top which is between 8-10". After deciding which type of bag is best, appearance, price, pocket configuration, and top configuration are the deciding factors in picking the right type of bag.

1. Carry Bags. Virtually all carry bags now have two straps for carrying and a stand to keep the bag off the ground. The two straps allow the bag to be worn like a backpack which is much better for your back. The stand mechanism in bags has improved greatly, but if something can go wrong, it is typically the stand. Good bag companies will warranty their bags including the stand. The larger carry bags are often appropriate for a golfer who will both walk and use a cart. If you are an occasional walker, a carry bag is better than a cart bag. Today's cart bags are virtually impossible to carry.

2. Pull Cart Bags. Pull cart bags and riding cart bags have similar characteristics with one exception - the tops are reversed. Pull cart bags are designed so the compartment for the woods is on top of the irons when the bag is on a cart.

3. Riding Cart Bags. These bags have a side that is void of any pockets and this is the side that faces the cart. This configuration makes all the pockets accessible when the bag is on a cart. The wood compartment for this bag will be closest to the cart and there will usually be a separate putter and/or wedge well.

Choosing a Travel Cover

When purchasing a travel cover these are things to consider:

1. If you travel often, a more expensive sturdy cover will in the long run save money. If you are an infrequent traveler, the less expensive covers are a good choice.

2. Do you want wheels? How strong are you and do you want to stuff your travel cover with extra items?

3. What about padding? The better travel covers have padding to protect your clubs. If you have expensive clubs, get a travel cover with plenty of padding. For added protection of your driver, you may want to consider a Club Glove Stiff Arm that takes the force that would otherwise go to the longest club in your bag.

4. Hard versus soft covers? The hard covers offer the best protection but they tend to be bulky and difficult to fit in smaller cars. Some airlines will require customers to sign a waiver that limits the airline from any liability for damage to clubs in a soft cover.

5. Cover size? When determining the size, it is best to put your bag in the cover to see if it fits properly. Be sure the cover is long enough to accommodate the length of your driver.



How to Buy

Golf Balls

Golf Bags

Travel Covers

3113 Carpenter Road
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www.milesogolf.com