



SGA

SINGAPORE GOLF ASSOCIATION

GET GOLFING

BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO THE GAME OF A LIFETIME

#GAMEOFA LIFETIME

SGA.ORG.SG



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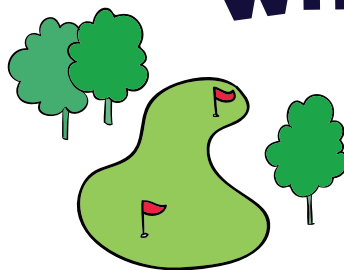
WELCOME

Learning how to play golf can be perceived as confusing, intimidating and even a little embarrassing. Whether you are picking up a club for the first time or looking to build your confidence on the course, the Singapore Golf Association has put together this beginner's guide designed to walk you through the basics to get started with ease.

WHY GOLF?

BENEFITS OF GOLF

Golf is a sport that can be enjoyed by players of all ages. Whether you are here to relax, improve your health, make friends or just simply want to try something new, golf has something for everyone. Give it a shot and you might be surprised by how much you enjoy it and the benefits of the sport that it can bring about!



GOLF IS A FUN SPORT

Golf is a game that you can enjoy your whole life. Whether you are at the driving range, having a chill round with friends, or competing to beat your personal best, golf continuously proves to be a fun and exciting sport.



GOLF IS A GOOD WORKOUT

You don't have to sprint or lift weights to be active. A full 18-hole can rack up thousands of steps, burning up to 2,000 calories, and even hitting balls at the range gives your muscles a good workout.



GOLF IS A STRESS RELIEVER

Playing golf gets you outdoors! It is a great way to enjoy nature, get some sunshine, and take a break from your office desks. This can help to reduce stress levels, enhance your mood, and even improve your self-esteem.



GOLF IS SOCIAL & WELCOMING

Golf is a great way to build new connections! You can play with friends, make new ones, or just enjoy some quiet solo time. Remember, everyone starts as a beginner – It is all about progress, not perfection. You are never alone!



HOW IS GOLF ACCESSIBLE

TEARING DOWN BARRIERS: INVOLVING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES (PWDs)

Singapore Golf Association (SGA), Singapore Disability Sports Council (SDSC) and Keppel Club have launched a joint effort to initiate monthly golf clinics with PWDs over three years, while creating a new golf curriculum curated for PWDs, expanding golf's accessibility.

A NEVERCHANGING "BOY'S CLUB"?

More women are embracing golf, with Singapore's registered female golfers increasing from 6,800 in 2023 to 8,279 in 2024, supported by the HSBC Women's World Championship and initiatives by the Singapore Ladies Golf Association (SLGA).



GOLF: ACCESSIBLE, AFFORDABLE & OPEN TO ALL

Golf is now more accessible than ever. Beginners are no longer limited to expensive club memberships and can enjoy the game through a growing range of public facilities, including driving ranges across Singapore, Mandai Executive Golf Course (9-hole public course), Keppel Club Sime Course and a potential future 18-hole public golf course planned after 2030.

Alternative formats such as indoor golf simulators have also grown in popularity, offering a convenient, weather-independent and affordable way for beginners to learn and enjoy the game.

AGE: NEVER A LIMIT

Golf is a sport for all ages, offering young players opportunities to stay active and learn valuable life skills. Junior participation continues to grow through university clubs, coaching programmes and youth events, with SGA supporting the pathway through regular tournaments and its Future Squad.

Golf is a great way for seniors to stay active and connected, with SGA creating opportunities for participation through targeted tournaments and initiatives.



JJ LIN

Singapore Mandopop Artist & Songwriter

"Golf is a game that follows you all the way. It's a game of life."



DR. LEE BEE WAH

Former Member Of Parliament

"There is open air with lots of greenery and I enjoy challenging myself. Every day is different and every hole is different."

PROF. JAYAKUMAR

Former Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore

"I can't think of any other game where you are together with a friend for say 4 hours over 18 holes. Some more time before the game over lunch and after the game for drinks."



INSPIRING WORDS FROM SGA AMBASSADORS

BEGINNER'S PATHWAY TO GOLF

FROM FIRST SWING TO
FIRST HANDICAP



1 GET CURIOUS AND LEARN ABOUT THE SPORT

Every journey begins with curiosity. Start by reading more about golf--the fact that you are reading this guide proves that you are off to a great start!

Watching beginner videos or tagging along with a friend who goes to the range could spark your interest to learn more about the game. There is also an abundance of YouTube channels and online sources sharing golf tips.

TIPS

You can also visit the Singapore Golf Association (SGA) website or the R&A website to learn more about golf.



3 TAKE BEGINNER LESSONS

Once you have gotten a feel for the game at the range, the next step is to take structured beginner lessons with a certified golf coach. These lessons are essential to help you build a solid foundation and make steady progress along your golfing journey to your first handicap.

Most beginner lesson packages are offered over several sessions, usually 5 to 10 lessons, and usually include a round of golf at a short 9-hole course towards the end of the session.

2 HIT THE DRIVING RANGE

Head to a public driving range and give it a try! Don't worry if you do not own any golf clubs as most ranges will provide rental clubs. It is also very affordable to play at the driving range as you will only be charged for the balls, usually per basket. It will even be cheaper if you go during a non-peak period. Try hitting golf balls with different clubs (it's best to start with a 7-iron) and getting a feel of your grip and swing.

There are private (1 to 1) or group sessions (usually 2-3 students) available, with each session usually lasting between 45 minutes to 1 hour. On average, each session costs \$60-\$150, depending on the group size and the experience and reputation of the coach.

TIPS

Depending on your level of interest and budget, we would recommend for most people to go for group sessions as it is more affordable. You can invite friends to join you or simply make new friends there! This way, the lessons are less intimidating because you are all beginners.

4 GET A PROFICIENCY CERTIFICATE (PC)

After a few lessons on your swing and knowing some of the basic rules of the game, you are well on your way on achieving your PC. Most certified golf coaches, either from clubs or academies, will be able to issue a PC, which is proof that you can play safely and understand the basic golf rules and etiquette. Usually, you will need to complete a practical on-course assessment of at least 9-holes with the coach in order to get a PC.



You can also visit the Singapore Golf Association (SGA) website or the R&A website to learn more about golf.



5 PURSUING A HANDICAP

A golf handicap measures your playing ability and allows you to join competitions and compete fairly with players of different skill levels.

To start a handicap, just submit a total of 3 scorecards to the Centralised Handicapping System maintained by your club or academy. You may follow up with your previous golf coach to be advised on how to get your handicap or simply joining any of the full member golf club or SGA associate members for enquiries.

Refer to Full member golf club and associate members directory page for contact details.

6 KEEP LEARNING, UPGRADE YOUR EQUIPMENT AND HAPPY GOLFING !

Golf is a lifelong game for all ages. Keep practising at the range, playing with friends, and working on your technique. As you improve, consider upgrading your gear as you move up the level of the game and start to take part in competitions.





BEGINNER'S STARTER KIT

BASIC EQUIPMENT

BEGINNER STARTER KIT

GOLF CLUBS

You are allowed to carry a maximum of **14 clubs** on the course, but you don't need that many, especially when you are just starting out. Listed below are the few key clubs that are more than enough to get you started.

1 THE WOODS

These are the longest clubs in the bag designed for long-distance shots off the tee. The woods are made up of:

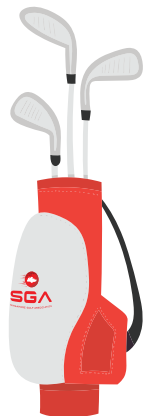
Driver – This is the longest club in the bag that is designed to hit your first shot over a long distance down the fairway. A driver is technically a 1-wood.



Fairway Woods – These can be 3-wood, 5-wood, 7-wood that are designed to hit the golf ball over longer distances from the fairway to the green.

3 WEDGES

These are the highest lofted clubs. They are used for shorter shots and chips and allow for more accuracy.



2 IRONS

These are used to hit approach shots off the ground towards the green. They start generally from a 3-iron to a 9-iron. The lower the number on the iron the longer the shaft and ability to create more speed to hit the ball further. The higher number irons have more tilt and loft and are designed to hit the ball higher over a shorter distance. A 7-iron is a great all-purpose iron for mid-range shots and are commonly used for practice at the driving ranges.



4 PUTTER

This is a flat faced club designed to roll the ball on the green and into the hole.



Other than the retail golf shops and pro shops in all golf country clubs, Far East Shopping Centre, located in Singapore's central district, is also an attractive shopping destination for golf enthusiasts, housing a multitude of golf shops that offer a wide array of affordable golfing equipment. For beginners, it is also possible to get a full set of basic clubs from online marketplaces such as Carousell for less than \$500.

OTHER ESSENTIAL GOLF EQUIPMENT

1 GOLF BAG

A lightweight carry bag or stand bag is perfect for beginners as it keeps your clubs organised and makes moving around the course easier. However, this is not an essential item if you are just starting to play and practise at the range.

2 GOLF BALL

Start with affordable balls. As a beginner, you do not need premium ones yet.



3 TOWEL

Used to clean your clubs between hits and balls between holes. Your golf towel could be the thing standing between you and a bogey!

4 TEE

For teeing up the ball on your tee shots. Typically tees are wooden or plastic and come in various sizes. Use a longer tee if you are hitting a driver, or a shorter, wooden tee if you are hitting an iron.

5 BALL MARKER

For marking your ball on the green. Used if your ball needs to be cleaned or if your ball is in someone else's putting line. You can also use a coin as a ball marker.

6 DIVOT TOOL

To repair marks on the green from your approach shots. This helps keep the green nice and flat for everyone to putt on.

There is no need to go overboard as a beginner. Borrow or rent where you can, try before you buy and slowly build up your gear as you get better!

TIPS

APPROPRIATE GOLF ATTIRE

Though there is no official dress code for a game of golf, there are a few guidelines that will ensure your comfort and aid in your golf game.



CLOTHING

Always dress comfortably in breathable clothes. Golf polo shirts and golf shorts, skorts or chinos are good options. Avoid denim jeans, cargo shorts or short gym shorts. You can choose to bring a light sweater or windbreaker for cooler weather conditions.

GOLF GLOVE

Worn on your non-dominant hand (e.g left hand for right-handed players). A glove helps you grip the club better and prevent blisters.



CAP / HAT

To protect your skin from the UV rays and keep the glare from the sun from messing up your shot.



GOLF SHOES

Proper golf shoe with soft spikes give you a good grip, but any comfortable athletic shoe with decent traction will do fine at the range or for your first few golf outings.



TYPICAL GOLF BEGINNER BUDGET

If you just want to try first, you can start small with a driving range session and rental clubs. But if you want to learn properly, a more realistic beginner budget is around S\$500 to S\$800, which can cover basic lessons, range practice, rentals, and small items like gloves. It's better not to buy a full golf set too early — try first, learn the basics, then only invest in your own gear once you're sure you want to continue.

Below table shows a simple starter budget for someone who is new to golf in Singapore.

Beginner Stage	Estimated Budget
Trying golf once at driving range	S\$20–S\$40
Practise casually for 1 month, 1x/week	S\$80–S\$180
Beginner lessons + weekly range practice	S\$400–S\$800
First course experience with rental set	S\$90–S\$150
Full beginner setup with lessons + basic gear	S\$800–S\$1,800+





GOLF FOR BEGINNERS

**LEARNING THE
GOLF LINGO**

BASIC GAME TERMS (AREAS ON THE COURSE)

Golf has its own language – but don't worry, you don't have to study all of the terminology to fit in. Here, we have put together common terms to prepare you for the next time you hit the golf course.

OUT OF BOUNDS

When your ball goes over a boundary of the course. These boundaries are often defined by white stakes or lines

HOLE

Refers to both the cup in the ground and the entire unit of the course from tee to green

ROUGH

The area around the fairway with longer grass

FAIRWAYS

The well mown grass area between the tee and the green

GREEN

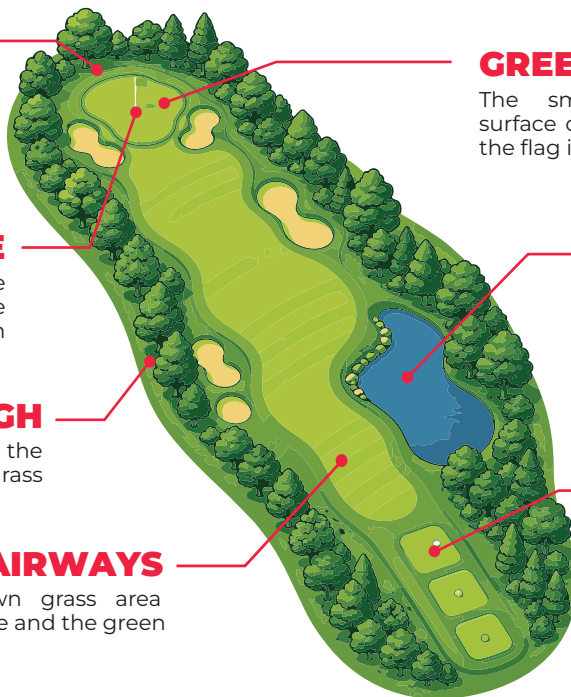
The smooth, putting surface on a hole where the flag is.

PENALTY

Any sea, lake, pond, river, ditch, surface drainage ditch or other designated areas which are usually defined by yellow or red stakes or lines.

TEE BOX

The starting point where you hit the first stroke for a hole





BASIC SCORING TERMS

STROKE

Any swing with a club that is intended to hit the golf ball

PAR

The allocated number of strokes given to each hole, indicating the number of strokes a player is expected to take to finish the hole. Holes are usually classified as par 3, 4 or 5.

BIRDIE

One stroke under par on an individual hole (e.g finishing a par 5 in 4 strokes)

EAGLE

Two strokes under par on an individual hole (e.g finishing a par 5 in 3 strokes)

BOGIE

One stroke over par on an individual hole (e.g finishing a par 5 in 6 strokes)

DOUBLE BOGIE

Two strokes over par on an individual hole (e.g finishing a par 5 in 7 strokes)

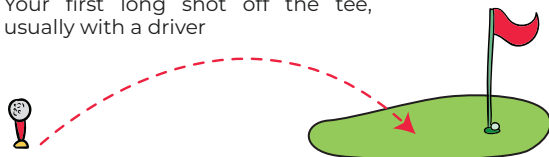
HOLE IN ONE

Getting the ball in the hole (cup) in only one stroke from the Tee box.

BASIC SHOT TYPES

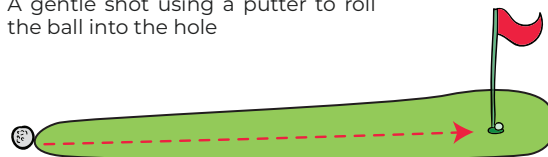
DRIVE

Your first long shot off the tee, usually with a driver



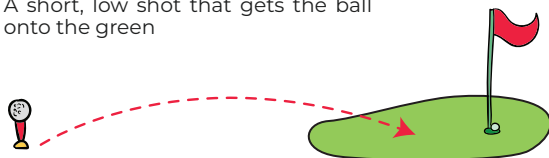
PUTT

A gentle shot using a putter to roll the ball into the hole



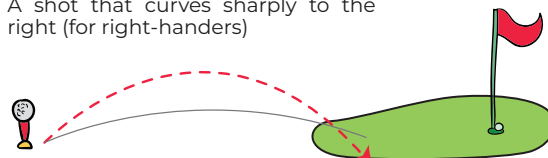
CHIP

A short, low shot that gets the ball onto the green



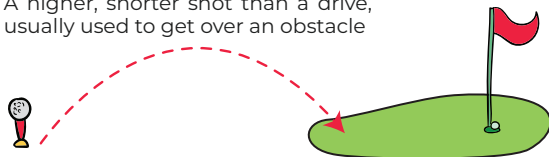
SLICE

A shot that curves sharply to the right (for right-handers)



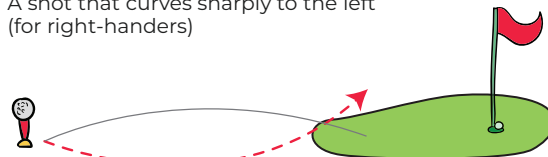
PITCH

A higher, shorter shot than a drive, usually used to get over an obstacle



HOOK

A shot that curves sharply to the left (for right-handers)



GOLF ETIQUETTE

Golf is a game of skill, but also one of respect – for the course, for other players and for the game itself. Here is a beginner friendly guide to help make you look like a seasoned pro on the golf course.



BE QUIET DURING SHOTS

Be still and quiet while another player is hitting a shot – just like you would want others to do for you. Keep your phone on silent and step away from the group if you need to take a call.

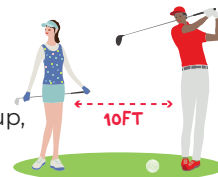


PLAY AT A GOOD PACE

Maintaining a steady pace of play is important regardless of your ability. Always try to be ready to hit when it's your turn. If you are having a bad day and it is just a social play, it is okay to pick up your ball and move on to the next tee so as not to hold up the group.

SAFETY

Maintain a safe distance between you and the person hitting (at least 10 feet from the golfer while they hit). Never hit until the group in front is out of range. Always be aware where other golfers are on the course, and if ever in doubt that your shot could be on its way to hit another group, shout **'Fore!'** loudly and the direction it is coming from – either right or left.



TAKING CARE OF THE COURSE

Always leave the golf course in better shape than you found it. Replace divots, rake bunkers, fix ball marks made on the green and cause unnecessary damage to the course.



DON'T WALK IN SOMEONE'S LINE

Standing in another golfer's line of sight on the putting green is distracting, both in front of them and behind them. Stand off to the sides instead.





FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

Q DO I NEED TO BE A MEMBER OF A GOLF CLUB TO START PLAYING?

A No. Many public facilities like Mandai Executive Golf Course and several other public access driving ranges offer access to beginners.

Q HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO START PLAYING GOLF?

A Starting golf is not as expensive as you think and it depends on your commitment and interest. Below is an estimated rough guide:

Golf equipment : It is possible to get a full set of basic clubs from online marketplaces such as Carousell for less than \$500. Alternatively, you could borrow or rent them while you hone your skills.

Driving range session : \$10 - \$25 each session (range balls + club rental)

Beginner lesson with a certified coach : \$600 - \$1200 for a 5-10 lesson package. Group sessions could even go lower.

Q WHAT IS A PROFICIENCY CERTIFICATE (PC)? DO I NEED IT?

A A PC shows that you understand golf rules and can safely play on a golf course. Most clubs in Singapore require it before allowing you on their courses. It is also a common stepping stone before you apply for a handicap.





FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

Q WHAT IS A GOLF HANDICAP AND HOW DO I GET ONE?

A A handicap reflects your playing ability and helps you compete fairly with others. You can join a full member golf club or any of the SGA listed associate members to get one.

Q HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO GET GOOD AT GOLF?

A Everyone progresses at their own pace. With consistent lessons and practice, most beginners should be able to:

- Play 9 holes within 2-3 months
- Obtain a PC within 3-5 months
- Receive a handicap within 6-12 months of regular play

Q CAN CHILDREN OR SENIORS LEARN GOLF TOO?

A Absolutely! Golf is a game for all ages. There are many beginner golf sessions catered towards juniors. Do look out on our SGA website for the latest Junior development programme and updates.



USEFUL RESOURCES AND CONTACTS

USEFUL RESOURCES AND CONTACTS

CLICK ON THE ORGANISATION NAMES LISTED BELOW TO ACCESS THE ORG WEBSITES



SINGAPORE GOLF ASSOCIATION (SGA)

SGA's official website with the latest information on golf development, handicaps, events, and affiliated clubs' information.



THE RULES OF GOLF

The official rules of golf are on the R&A website.



CENTRALISED HANDICAPPING SYSTEM

Official centralized handicapping system from the Singapore Golf Association. Handicaps of golfers who are members of SGA ordinary and associate members are registered here.

FULL MEMBER GOLF CLUB DIRECTORY

Keppel Club

Coaching Facilities: Resident Coaches
239 Sime Road
18 holes

Singapore Island Country Club (Island)

Coaching Facilities: Resident Coaches
180 Island Club Road
45 holes

Singapore Island Country Club (Bukit)

240 Sime Rd, Singapore 288303
36 holes

Mandai Executive Public Golf Course

Coaching Facilities: Sggolcoach, Edmund
Tan School of Golf
Upper Seletar Reservoir, Mandai Road Truck
9 holes

National Service Resort & Country Club

Coaching Facilities: The Golfing Lab,
International Golf Academy
10 Changi Coast Walk
18 holes

Seletar Country Club

Coaching Facilities: Resident Coaches
101 Seletar Club Road
18 holes

Warren Golf and Country Club

Coaching Facilities: Muru Golf Academy
81 Choa Chu Kang Way
18 holes

Changi Golf Club

20 Netheravon Road
9 holes

Orchid Country Club

Coaching Facilities: GP360 Golf Academy,
Resident Coaches
1 Orchid Club Road
27 holes

NSRCC Kranji Sanctuary Golf Club

50 New Tiew Lane 3
18 holes

Sentosa Golf Club

Coaching Facilities: Resident Coaches
27 Bukit Manis Road
36 holes

Tanah Merah Country Club (Tampines)

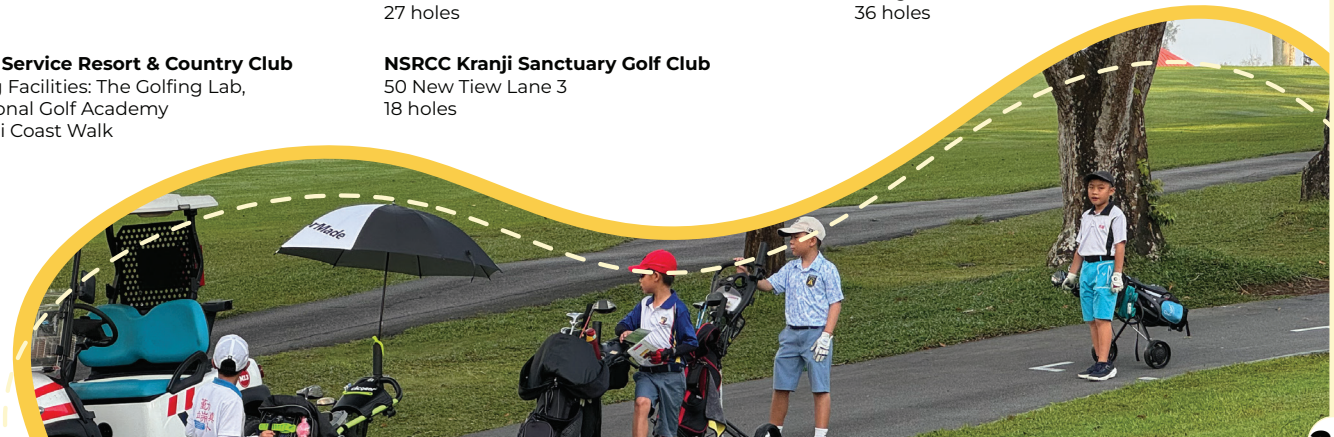
Coaching Facilities: Resident Coaches
151 Xilin Avenue
18 holes

Tanah Merah Country Club (Garden)

1 Tanah Merah Coast Road
18 holes

Laguna National Golf Resort

Coaching Facilities: David Leadbetter Golf
Academy
11 Laguna Golf Green
36 holes



DRIVING RANGE DIRECTORY

Bukit Batok Golf Driving Range

2 Bukit Batok West Avenue 7, Singapore 659003
+65 6567 4800

Sembawang Country Club Driving Range

Upper Seletar Reservoir, Mandai Road Track 7, Singapore 779384
+65 6456 6533

Mandai Executive Golf Course

Upper Seletar Reservoir, Mandai Road Track 7, Singapore 779384
+65 6456 6533

Warren Golf & Country Club Driving Range

81 Choa Chu Kang Way, Singapore 688263
+65 6586 1263

Laguna Practice Driving Range

610A Upper East Coast Road, Singapore 465404
+65 6741 1111

Keppel Club Driving Range

239 Sime Road, Singapore 289685
+65 6375 5569

Punggol Golf Driving Range

60 Punggol East, Singapore 828825
+65 6244 6188

National Service Resort & Country Club

10 Changi Coast Walk Singapore 499739
+65 6542 8288



It is advisable to contact the respective facilities directly or visit their official websites for the most up-to-date information on operating hours, pricing, and booking requirements. There are also golf simulators available across Singapore for those who prefer indoor formats. Refer to the Simulator locations for some of the recommendations!

SIMULATOR DIRECTORY

Five Iron Golf Singapore

39 Cecil St, #13-01, Singapore 069539
+65 6993 4131

Golfwav

1 Stadium Pl, #01-67/68, Singapore 397628
+65 9816 7923

Hidden Castle Golf Club

405 Havelock Rd, #02-01, Singapore 169633
+65 8200 9649

The Par Club

6 Raffles Blvd, #02-309/310/311 Marina Square, Singapore 039594
+65 9011 0142

Friends Golf Singapore

12 Queen St, #02-01 Hotel Royal Queens, Singapore 188553
+65 9731 5842

Partee Golf

87 Science Park Dr, #02-01/02 Oasis Science Park, Singapore 118260
+65 8777 3050

GolfX SG

1 Kim Seng Promenade, #01 -158C, Singapore 237994
+65 8784 1365

City Golfer

7500A Beach Rd, #02-305 The Plaza, Singapore 199591
+65 6388 9588

AnyBirdie Golf

147A Kitchener Rd, Singapore 208524
+65 8772 7362

DB Golf Centre

6 Tampines Street 92, #01/03, Singapore 528893
+65 9047 2041

Golf ONE

90 Eu Tong Sen Street, #01-01, Singapore 059811
+65 8816 7999

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS DIRECTORY

Golf Alliance

33 Ubi Ave 3, Vertex Tower A, #08-68
Singapore 408868
<https://www.golfalliance.com/>
+65 6747 4898
Email: membership@golfalliance.com

Society of Singapore Golfers

41 St Patrick's Road, #01-01 St Patrick's Loft
Singapore 424164
<https://singaporegolfers.orgt>
+65 9183 0009

Keppel Club Sime Golfers

239 Sime Road, Singapore 289685
<https://keppelclub.com.sg/sime-golf-handicap/>
+65 8380 5719
Email: vigknes@keppelclub.com.sg

Golfer.sg Club

Upper Seletar Reservoir Mandai Road Track
7 Singapore 779384
<https://www.golfers.sg/>
+65 6244 6188
Email: Marketing@golfers.com.sg

Compass Club

<https://www.compassgolfclub.com/>
Email: admin@compassgolfclub.com

Singa Golf

Sembawang Country Club, 249
Sembawang Road Singapore 758352
<https://www.singagolf.com.sg/>
+65 6751 0341

Singapore Senior Golfers Society

151 Chin Swee Road, #03-33A, Manhattan
House Singapore 169876
<https://www.ssgs.org.sg/>
+65 6738 0655
Email: genadmin@ssgs.org.sg



Singapore Golf Association

249 Sembawang Road Singapore 758352



Singapore Ladies Golf Association

PO Box 177, Katong Post Office Singapore
437130



The Singapore Professional Golfers' Association

87 Science Park Drive #02-01 Singapore
118260

Singapore Golf Association Full Members



Associate Members



Affiliate Members



Singapore Golf Association Automobile Partner



Singapore Golf Association Partners

