

Bunker Etiquette and the Placement of Bunker Rakes

Bunker care is a constant issue at Cromer. It is not possible for the course staff to fully maintain each one of our current 61 bunkers every day, so **we depend on members** to ensure they do their part and leave a bunker in better condition than when they entered. This includes standard Bunker Etiquette which is just a courtesy to fellow golfers, and the placement of rakes in bunkers.

Bunker Etiquette

- always enter and leave a bunker from a low point (to protect bunker edges and walls)
- after a shot, rake the sand smooth leaving a fresh surface for other players (*you could be the next player*)
- use the back of the rake to smooth the bunker wall (to ensure ball rolls down to the bunker base)
- use two hands when raking the bunker smooth (to ensure firm pressure when smoothing sand)
- place the rake at the base of the bunker near an entry point with the handle pointing back to the tee (to ensure a subsequent ball avoids an unfair lie).

Placement of Rakes

There is no rule that dictates where rakes should be placed after raking or smoothing a bunker.

Cromer Golf Club's policy is that, after smoothing a bunker, rakes should be left away from bunker edges at the base of a bunker with the handle pointing back to the tee.

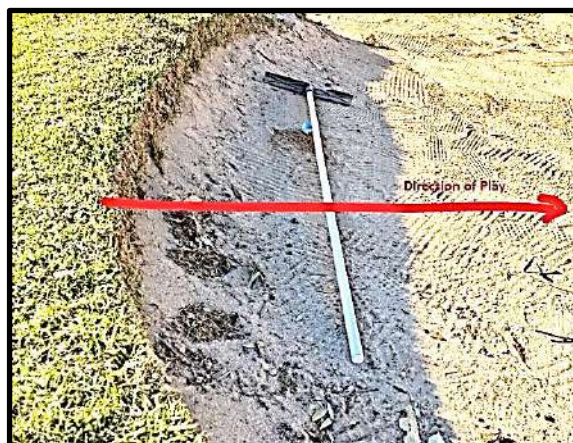
Why? Bunkers are generally designed to promote a ball rolling towards the base of the bunker. A rake left on the side of a bunker can stop a ball rolling to the flat base of the bunker. This can result in a much harder shot than would otherwise have been the case **and is poor bunker etiquette.**

The pictures below illustrate where to place rakes (and where not to):



The picture on the right is an actual example at Cromer. This ball finished up against a rake placed at the front edge of the bunker. The arrow shows the direction of play. The player was NOT happy.

Australia's golfing legend Peter Thomson proposed simply not raking bunkers at all! This transforms bunkers into a real hazard, because, after all, "we shouldn't be in there in the first place, right?"



It is up to members to do the right thing, follow the Club's policy, and leave rakes at the base of a bunker when smoothing is complete. This applies whether playing socially or in competition.