

# Bunkers

---

## Understanding the Concept of Bunkers

Bunkers are designed to be and are classified as a hazard, therefore if you go into a bunker expect a bad lie and to be penalized.

To limit your bad lies and help keep the bunkers in good order on any course you play always enter and leave the bunker at the low point. Always rake the bunker sand with the teeth of the bunker rake on the flat pan and then as you exit use the toothless side to smooth the bank. If you use the teeth side of the rake on the slopes it softens them and makes the sand vulnerable to balls plugging in. Currently many golfers are walking on our bunker faces when entering and exiting the bunker, to make the problem worse they then use the teeth of the rake to rake their foot marks. This ruins the bunker faces. If your ball plugs in the face of the bunker after you have tried to hit out remember to use the smooth side of the rake to fix the damage once the ball is finally out.

If you are having trouble with the pans of the bunker being firm and you skinny your bunker shots the best advice I can offer is to brushen up on your bunker shot techniques, as the firmer the bunker the easier the shot actually is. Soft bunkers are a golfers' nightmare. Fortunately here at Kwinana we are very lucky and have the best sand money could buy for bunkers, so if you find yourself struggling with your bunker play ask the pro or a low handicap golfer for some tips and practice, practice, practice.

You can't blame a bunker for your poor shot because it was placed there specifically to penalize you. So if you get up and down out of a bunker you have done well and it will only have happened because of your good technique and practice. So next time you find yourself having difficulties in the bunkers ask yourself, Am I using the correct technique? Have I practised that technique recently to improve my skills? If the answer is no then they are things you could consider before your next round of golf. Golf was not designed to be an easy game hence it has a handicap system. Bunkers were not designed to be easy to get out of hence they are called a hazard.

Our bunker sand is lovely at Kwinana, we are spoilt. Enjoy it.

Eric Dennis

Kwinana Golf Course Superintendent