



Golf Club

TYPES & THEIR USES

Golf is one of the world's favorite stress-busting pastime. While the game's invention is credited to Scotland in the 1400s, a loosely similar game called "Chuiwan" existed way back in the Song Dynasty¹.

Back then, Scottish golf players used self-made wooden clubs that anyone can make. Today, dedicated golf players invest in a set highly-specialized clubs, namely **woods, irons, wedges, putters, and hybrids**.

According to official rules, a player's bag can only have up to 14 clubs at a time². With each club serving a very specific purpose, it is your goal as a player to understand and utilize them to the fullest.

Woods

Woods are specifically designed for **long-distance shots**. They typically have a long shaft and large head to maximize the speed in a swing. Despite the name, wood clubs or drivers can be made out of steel.



Distance
200 to 350 yards

Standard Length
44 inches (steel),
44.5 inches (graphite)

HEAD
Stainless steel, titanium,
graphite fiber-reinforced epoxy

Irons

Golfers use irons if the ball is **less than 200 yards from the green**. As the name suggests, the club head in irons is made out of metal. A variety of irons are used throughout a course, but numbers 3-9 are most used because 1 and 2 irons are considered difficult to master.



Distance
190 to 120 yards (down
to 100 yards for women)

Standard Length
39.5 inches (steel) + .5 inch
for higher number irons

HEAD
Chrome-plated steel, stainless steel,
titanium, tungsten, beryllium
nickel, beryllium copper



Wedges

Wedges are classified under irons, but they are specifically designed for a number of **high-altitude, short-distance, and "utility" shots**. A useful example is the sand wedge, which is perfect for getting the ball out of bunkers.



Distance
110 yards (pitching wedge),
90 yards (sand wedge), 65
yards (lob wedge)

Standard Length
35 inches (steel), 35.5
inches (graphite)

HEAD
Same as irons

Putters

The putter is an essential club that's used for **"putting" the ball within the green to the hole**. A putter's head typically has a flat blade.



Distance
Within the green

Standard Length
33-35 inches

HEAD
Same as irons +
aluminum and bronze



Hybrids

Lastly, hybrids **combine elements of irons and woods**. These are versatile clubs that come in lofts of 16-26 degrees.



Distance
198-157 yards

Standard Length
No less than 37 inches

Standard Length
Same as irons

Golf by the Numbers

Despite being around for centuries, golf is still a widely-enjoyed sport to this day. Here are a few statistics:

Statistics show that there are **29 million** golfers in the US from 2015-2016^[3].

On a global scale, there are approximately **60 million** golfers across the world^[4].

According to R&A, golfers based in the UK spend **£4 billion** a year on the sport^[5].

SOURCES

1. The Roots and History of Golf - AthleticScholarships.net
2. How Many Clubs Are You Allowed to Carry in Your Bag? - About.com
3. Golf Player Demographic Statistics - StatisticBrain.com
4. How many golfers are there in the world? - Golf Today UK
5. UK golfers spend 4 billion a year on their sport - RandA.org