

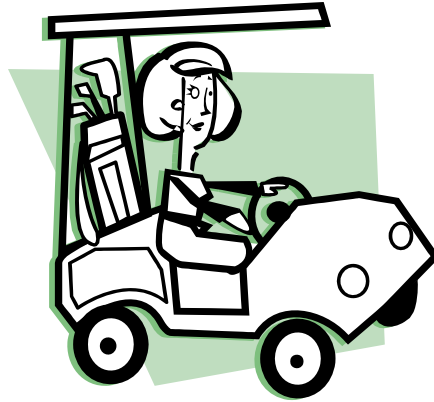
## **GOLFWATCH CHECKLIST SUGGESTIONS FOR GOLFERS**



Many golfers have invested significant amounts of money in the latest in golf equipment and technology. Special clubs can cost as much as \$500.00 each and more! Unfortunately, this also makes golf clubs a prime target for thieves.

Here are a few tips to reduce your chances of being a victim of theft while at the course:

1. Do not wear or bring valuable jewelry to the golf course. Wedding rings, watches, etc. may be stored in a “valuables pouch” but this should be placed in an interior pocket of your bag that faces the golf cart. Do not store valuables in the “boot pocket” because this area is easily accessible to thieves.
2. Ladies, store your purse and other valuables that you have



chosen to bring to the course in your car trunk. Remember to lock your car also, as many vehicles are equipped with trunk releases in the glove compartment. If your car interior is not locked, your trunk is accessible by simply opening the glove compartment and popping this button.

3. When choosing which valuables to put in your golf bag, remember the possibility that your complete bag could be stolen off your golf cart, so all your possessions in the bag would be gone. Plan accordingly.

4. Do not put your purse, day planner or wallet in the golf cart. Take a small bag with



- minimal items such as identification, one credit card and a minimal amount of cash, and keep this bag with you at all times when you are away from the cart. Purses in the clothing basket of a golf cart are prime targets for thieves, as are other similar items.
5. Be aware when parking your golf cart at on-course rest areas. Peruse the surroundings for possible hiding places for loiterers, etc. and enlist the assistance of fellow players to watch your cart while you use the facilities. Then return the favor for them.
6. Accompany fellow golfers when searching for lost balls

in areas that could be dangerous. Perimeter areas of the course may not be fenced, and locals may have unlimited access to these areas. There is safety in numbers!

7. Be alert during shotgun starts to any persons loitering in or around the cart staging area or bag drop. The large number of people socializing or looking for their starting positions creates an environment ripe for criminal behavior. Many times golfers are not allowed to take their carts to the driving range to hit balls and they will take a few clubs instead. This leaves their remaining bag unattended and a prime target.



8. At the conclusion of your round, put your clubs in your car trunk as soon as possible and definitely do this before you go to lunch!
9. When you must park your cart around the clubhouse area, think about backing the cart up to a hedge, the curb or some interior area. This makes your clubs less attractive to thieves as they would be more difficult to remove from the cart.
10. As in any situation, be alert to your surroundings and report any suspicious activity or persons to pro shop staff. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!

**For more information  
or to schedule a  
Golf Course Security Survey or  
Golfer Safety Program,  
please contact the  
Highlands County Sheriff's Office  
Crime Prevention Unit  
863-402-7369**



## ***GOLFER SAFETY***



***Suggestions on how to protect  
yourself and your equipment while  
on the golf course and in the  
clubhouse area***

**Highlands County Sheriff's Office  
Crime Prevention Unit  
434 Fernleaf Ave.  
Sebring, FL 33870**