Getting Started in Golf

FREE INTRO · ENOUGH TO BOOK THE NINE

You are allowed to be bad at golf.
You are not allowed to be confused about what to do next.

Golf looks like swinging. For a beginner the first job is quieter. You are handed a tee and a pin. The architect already placed the trouble and the safe grass. The greenskeeper placed today's hole to tempt you. Your swing is the third voice. It does not have to be the loudest one.

You are not graded on attacking the flag. A miss to the wide side is still you playing the hole. "Hit it hard" feels like a plan only because it skips the decision.

Three clubs. One stick.

PUTTER
Every hole ends here. Speed first. You do not need a new one to be allowed to play.

52° WEDGE
The fuller-swing club. Often the tee club on a short par 3. One smooth swing. Not a driver.

56° WEDGE
Chips, pitches, sand, everything around the green. A boxed-set sand wedge around 54 to 56 is close enough this month.

ALIGNMENT STICK · MUST-HAVE
Practice only. A few dollars, any store brand. It does not come on the course. Not an accessory — the fourth piece of The First 9 Method.

Why two wedges: a full iron set you buy later brings its own pitching wedge and 8-iron, almost never a 52 or 56. Nothing here gets wasted. A longer par 3, about 120 yards and up? Borrow or rent a hybrid or 7-iron. Leave the driver in the car. A boxed set stays in the garage: pull the putter and the sand wedge. Rent the three if you own none. Used is allowed. Fancy is a delay.

What to ignore for now

- A driver, a fitting, and any "complete beginner set."
- Years of range balls with no target and no nine holes on the calendar.
- Swing videos. They are noise until you have finished a short nine.

This week, if you can rent or you already own clubs

01 Find a par-3 nine, a pitch-and-putt, or a short public loop. Weekday or twilight. About an hour, not an afternoon.

02 Front tees. Three clubs only. A dozen cheap balls is enough.

03 At the window: “I’m new. Three clubs. Front tees.”

04 On the first tee: “I’ll play from up here.”

05 After a miss: nothing. A small nod. Walk to the ball. Play the next one.

06 Finish all nine. That is the win. Score is optional.

This intro is the permission and the first booking. The free playbook walks a tucked pin, teaches the five-step practice sequence, and grades your putts. The free shopping guide stands with you at a used-club rack. Both are free at thefirst9.com — so you stop guessing on the hole and at the store.

What the free guides add

Playbook (free)

One worked hole — architect and greenskeeper, with a landing spot and a club — plus putting (slightly past, high side), the five-step sequence, and a first-nine card.

Shopping guide (free)

Used-club caps, a tear-out card, what to keep from a boxed set, and the alignment stick as a practice must-have (cheap, any store brand, off the course).

Digital PDFs. Questions: hello@thefirst9.com.

GET THE FREE GETTING STARTED GUIDES

thefirst9.com

Read it once. Book the nine. The driver can wait.