

# FootGolf: A closer look at growing sport

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(Photo: Carlos Osorio, ASSOCIATED PRESS)

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In the never-ending quest to make golf more enjoyable for those who do not wish to endure the frustration from trying to get a small ball into a round hole from hundreds of yards away, a new variation has started to blossom in the United States.

In the same way Frisbee enthusiasts merged their favorite pastime with golf to create disc golf, a group of soccer fans from Europe created "FootGolf" to spice up golf. [Traditions at the Glen in the Town of union announced construction](#) of the Binghamton area's first dedicated FootGolf course earlier this month and Crestview Heights Golf Course in Oneonta already offers FootGolf seven days a week.

Unlike disc golf, golf courses across the country have made alterations to allow FootGolf or have constructed separate FootGolf courses to expand their customer base. The Professional Golfer's Association of American has even given their support of the new sport.

"This is something I had heard about at the PGA Show through our player development committee," PGA of America President Ted Bishop said last March on the Golf Channel's Morning Drive. "The interest that I'm already getting from the soccer community on the sport is unbelievable... I think the thing that excites me, is that you've got the chance here to bring people in who are soccer-crazy and to give them the opportunity to go to the golf course, experience some things at the course and I think it would be ludicrous to think there won't be a percentage of those people that might say, 'Hey, you know what? I think I'd like to try and play golf.'"



In a photo from June 20, 2014 in Salem Township, Mich., Josh Maxam, left, watches as Brian Eggenberger drives during a round of FootGolf at Fox Hills Golf Course. FootGolf, a soccer-golf hybrid is helping courses draw younger, more diverse customers. Players “tee off” \_ minus the tees of course \_ by kicking a soccer ball from the tee box. They follow the basic rules of golf from there, advancing the ball until it drops into the oversized hole. (AP Photo/Carlos Osorio) (Photo: Carlos Osorio, AP)

From the PGA of America, there are 10 rules of FootGolf:

1. Golf apparel must be worn at all times.
2. The soccer ball (either provided or you can bring your own) must be easy to identify.
3. Wait for your turn and make sure your kick will not interfere with other players.
4. The ball must be struck in a single movement, similar to a golfer's club swinging through the ball.

5. Also like golf, wait to play until the ball has completely come to rest.
6. Kick off your ball from a position up to two meters behind the tee markers. Like golf, order is established based on the score of the previous hole with the player with the best score kicking off first.
7. Play the ball from where it lies. Only exception is you may mark the spot and lift the ball when it may obstruct the other players kick or ball in any way.
8. The player farthest from the hole is the first to kick the ball.
9. If the ball lands in a water hazard, retrieve or replace it within two steps from the closest land point from where the ball entered the water, receiving one penalty point, or you can place the ball at the position of the previous kick and receive one penalty point.
10. Only on the greens may the balls be picked up to be cleaned or replaced, just like golf.

From footgolf.net:

"The game is played with a regulation #5 soccer ball at a golf course facility on shortened holes with 21-inch diameter cups. The rules largely correspond to the rules of golf. FootGolf as a game is played throughout the world in many different forms, but as a sport, it is regulated by the Federation for International FootGolf (FIG). The American FootGolf League (AFGL) is the exclusive member of the FIG and governing body for the sport of FootGolf in the United States. The AFGL is organizing tournaments throughout the country working with golf courses to bring FootGolf to their clubs as another avenue for revenue and to develop the game further."

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