

Fit the right golf ball for your game

It seems that most golfers, good and bad, spend lots of time selecting the right clubs based on the player's swing speed, feel, looks and price. Then why play a golf ball that doesn't help maximize the potential of the largest expense of the game, that new set of golf clubs?



Golf balls are all 1.68 inches in diameter. After that, things get complicated. There are different designs, different covers, different compressions and different dimple patterns. Golf balls are made for certain swings, so if you want to shave some strokes, it is important to find the right one, by consulting your local pro or the professional staff at the many excellent golf retailers you find in the Carolina Golf Journal.

It might take some trial and error, but here is some information to make your selection a little easier.

Callaway two-piece golf ball gaining ground on Titleist for high handicap players. The two piece ball is a simple rubber core surrounded by a plastic or urethane cover **and best for the** beginner or average player with a 20 + handicap. They typically have low spin and are made for distance and are easy to find.

Bridgestone, Callaway, Titleist, Maxfli, Nike, Pinnacle, Srixon, Precept, Wilson, Slazenger and Top Flite are some of the name brands with an average cost of \$10-\$15 per dozen.

For the midrange golfer who can shoot in the 70's or 80's and can hit the target fairly consistently the best selection would be the **three piece ball**. Take the two-piece ball and add a cover (enhanced rubber or a liquid) between the rubber core and the outer cover. It is supposed to give more spin control for golfers who want distance and a soft touch on the greens. We found the Srixon Trispeed and Bridgestone e6 to be highly recommended by experts with an average price of \$20-\$30 per dozen.

For the players we all envy, the professionals or low handicap golfers, the only choice is the **four piece ball**. It has a two-piece core, a thin mantle layer and a urethane cover. These balls are not necessarily used for distance, but they are susceptible to spin. When the PGA pros spin a ball back 15 feet at the Masters, he's using a four-piece ball. The Titleist Pro V1 is one of the most played balls by low handicap players. Srixon, Nike, Callaway and Bridgestone are also used. With an average cost of \$40-\$45 per dozen.

The Titleist Pro V1 is still the most played golf ball for low handicap players

Finally, golf balls have compressions between 70 (high handicappers) and 110 (professionals). The lower the number, the less club speed it takes to compress the ball. The number is either stamped on the ball or on the package. Compression doesn't matter as much now due to technology, but it is a factor. If your club speed isn't fast enough to compress the ball, it can feel like a rock coming off the club.

