

Maximising your phone's battery life

Many of today's smartphones allow you to constantly remain in touch but, at a cost – they drain the battery and can force you to recharge it nightly. Here's some tips that will help you avoid that and ensure you get more than a full round of golf while using WeGolf:

Start with a fully charged battery!

Bluetooth, 3G and WiFi: are now standard features in most new phones and are the great battery life drains in a mobile device. These are features which don't affect your making or receiving calls so, turn these off and make sure you only switch them on when you need them.

Most phones feature a “GSM only” option and switching this from 3G to 2G can double or triple your battery life depending on your usage.

GPS: an absolute battery hog! On some phone models, e.g., BlackBerry, GPS is always on. Turn it off if you don't need it and turn it on 5-10 minutes before you get to the golf course.

Screen's brightness: you don't need full brightness to view WeGolf on your screen properly. Setting it as low as possible will save plenty of battery, e.g. 60%. Keep the backlight on for as short an amount of time as possible, around 30-seconds or less.

Screensavers: these use up battery power, so turn them off. A loud ring and the vibrate mode also use a lot of power. Turn down the volume and turn off the vibrate mode if you don't need it.

Be courteous on the course: set your phone's ringing profile to low or silent. Don't make or accept needless phone calls or text messages while playing.

The battery: most mobile phone batteries are lithium rather than nickel-based. Nickel batteries need to be charged for 8-hours before first use while lithium batteries only need to be charged until the mobile phone says the battery is full. Lithium battery don't retain “memory”. When nickel batteries are charged and aren't fully discharged, large crystals will form on the internal cell plates causing them to under perform. A lithium battery can be charged whenever it needs it; full discharges are not needed and are inadvisable; let the battery run down to around a third of its capacity and charge it on a regular basis.

Cool and shaded: lithium batteries come with built-in circuitry that protects them from overheating; leaving a phone to charge overnight or over a couple of days won't damage it. However, if a lithium battery is over-charged for too long, e.g. a week, it will start to heat up. Overheating is a lithium battery's main enemy and can result in permanent battery damage. The battery can also get overheated if your mobile phone is left in the sun or near a heat source.

Battery life: a lithium battery lasts for around 300-500 charges. If you have been using the same battery for more than a two years, you may need a new battery.

Spare battery: make sure you rotate it with your primary battery on a regular basis as lithium batteries deteriorate even when they're not being used.