

NOT FOR BEGINNERS ONLY

GOLF SCHOOL FAQs

GOLF SCHOOL IS FOR ANYONE INTERESTED IN LEARNING GOLF AS well as for every golfer interested in game improvement. So says veteran teaching professional Barbara Puett, who serves as an instructor at the Chuck Cook Golf Academy at **Barton Creek Resort & Spa** in Austin, Texas. Here, Puett (pictured below) responds to the most frequently asked questions about golf schools.

How can a golfer benefit from attending a golf school?

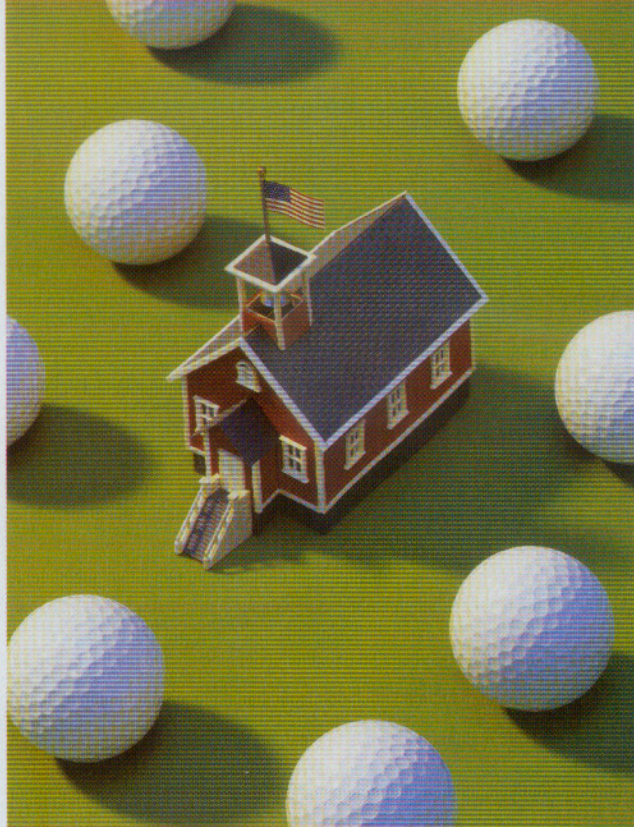
Advanced technology at golf schools allows students and their instructors to improve golf swings at every level of the game. Cameras can record a swing from the front, back, side, and overhead views. The multiple camera angles give instructors additional information to assist the students. This doesn't make the instruction more technical for the student, but, instead, simplifies the adjustments the instructor might make based on the ability to see the golf swing from every angle. Swing analysis, along with traditional instruction, will meet the individual needs of all students. Golf schools also offer golfers opportunities to work with nationally recognized instructors who have had years of experience teaching all levels of golfers.

Can beginner golfers and advanced golfers attend the same golf school?

Yes, with respect to most golf schools. The beginning golfer can develop a swing that will give good ball contact, distance, and direction. The advanced player will look for swing refinement that will improve distance, ball flight control, and ultimately lower scores. Students are given drills that can be used for a lifetime of sound golf swing development and improvement. Schools that focus on only one aspect of the game, such as the short game, usually are attended by more experienced players.

What should students expect from a golf school, other than golf swing instruction?

A typical school will include on-course strategy, management of trouble shots, individual guides for drills, and



information about organizing practice. A golfer will take home a DVD of his or her swing and an instruction book that will be reference sources for continued swing development. In addition, a comprehensive clubfitting is usually part of the curriculum. Clubfitting can have a huge impact on a golfer's ability to make good ball contact — clubs can be too long or too short; the shaft too stiff or too flexible; the lie too flat or too upright. Golfers sometimes blame themselves when often it's their equipment that causes errant shots.

For a woman, is there an advantage to attending a women-only golf school?

It's definitely a personal preference. Some women like female-only golf schools for the socialization and camaraderie of other women. They often form friendships that continue long after the school is over. Meeting other women who play or want to learn to play is an opportunity for business networking, as well as recreational and social experiences. It's also less intimidating for some women.

Is there an advantage for men to go to a male pro and a woman to a female for instruction?

Again, it's a personal preference based on the best communication between student and instructor. I've never known an instructor to limit teaching to one gender.

If you had to describe the golf school experience in one word, what would it be?

Fun. I've never known a student who didn't enjoy golf school. The students are always supportive of one another with humor and encouragement. ♦♦

For more information about the Chuck Cook Golf Academy, call 512.301.1054.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY PETE MCARTHUR