

# CHEAP SHOTS

Exclusive, expensive and all about etiquette. That was the snobby game of golf, until now. Prepare for the revolution. This is urban golf.

**W**e asked the Godfather of urban golf, Spatman, how to set up the sport in your town.



**Spatman**  
Urban golf Godfather

## URBAN WHAT?

Urban golf uses a lot of the same skills as regular golf without the need for ugly plaid pants and silly sweatervests. A few dollars for a bunch of old tennis balls and a beat up old club are all you really need to play. No course fees, caddy tips, or zillion dollar super alloy clubs are needed. You can play

anywhere, but remote, unpopulated industrial areas often work best. The sparser, the easier. Find a good part of town, pick a target, and whack away. Game on...

## IS IT LEGAL?

Depends on who you ask. Mostly we walk a thin line that is determined by our attitude. If some business owner tells you that you can't play through his parking lot because it's trespassing, he might be right. Don't act like a jerk and he won't call the cops. In the seven-plus years we've been playing we've had cops show up quite a few times, and no one has been arrested or fined for anything. Just be cool.

## THE RULES

We have what we call the golden rules: you have to respect each other, respect the environment you're playing in, and have fun. We also have guidelines that roughly shape the game, but they're open to interpretation. We don't

want to dictate how urban golf should be played. We just want people to have fun. Stay away from troublemakers, vandals, and general a\*\*holes, because their behaviour causes problems which lead to cops, fights, or other things that cause the game to end early, and possibly ruin your chances of playing that area again. Competitive BS should stay on the links, not the streets. The more you suck, the more fun you have. Check out the website for more details: [www.urbangolf.org](http://www.urbangolf.org)

## THE KIT

A one or two wood works best for us. A couple of tennis balls – you're sure to lose one now and then. A marker – to put your name on your ball. A pen and paper – to keep score. Flashlights – for night games. Some drinks and munchies – especially if you're playing for a long time. And some kind of golf bag or backpack to carry your stuff around.

## Buy this...

1

**Camelbak Hydrobak US\$30**[www.camelbak.com](http://www.camelbak.com)

Swinging a golf club might look easy, but it takes its toll, especially when you're playing in hot sunlight. Bulky packs containing bottles and cans will get in the way, so fill the slimline Camelbak and rehydrate as you play.



2

**Maglite 4D US\$35**[www.maglite.com](http://www.maglite.com)

A night game opens up opportunities to play in areas which are out-of-bounds during the day and is also a cooler option, especially during summer. This powerful LED torch will light the 'fairway', and its energy management system means it'll go the whole nine holes.



3

**SanDisk Sansa Express (2GB) US\$80**[www.sandisk.com](http://www.sandisk.com)

Twice the capacity of the iPod Shuffle, the Sansa Express has microSD memory, FM tuner and voice recording. Plus it's a fraction of the price. It plugs directly into your USB port, so you can just unplug and play.



4

**Wilson Championship balls US\$5 for 3**[www.wilson.com](http://www.wilson.com)

Eh? Tennis balls for golf? Yep. Golf balls are too small, too easy to lose and too difficult to hit for your average urban golfer. We're not saying they won't get lost, though, so make sure you take a few spares.



## Say this...

"This looks pretty big... I'm going to have to **Gilmore**"

"I just hit a massive **lofter** over that warehouse."

"Dude, you've just been **jay-sica'd** on that street corner"

"Uh oh... my ball went loose – **CUATRO!**"

**Gilmore** – playing shots hockey-style, after Adam Sandler's Happy Gilmore

**Lofter** – a wild shot which flies up in the air on impact with the golf club

**Jay-sica** – after off-target urban golfer Jay and drain-rescue baby Jessica McClure,

to hit the ball down a drain • **Cuatro!** – Spanish for 'four', and hence 'fore'. Don't ask...