

PACE OF PLAY POLICY

Jan 1st, 2019



Introduction

SLOW PLAY can adversely impact the level of enjoyment for players, and this policy is designed to ensure competition rounds are played at an appropriate pace and that everyone gets to enjoy their game of golf.

Members are encouraged to read the R&A Pace of Play Guidelines and view the videos.

Rule Changes 2019

Rule 5.6 encourages prompt pace of play by recommending that:

- Players should recognize that their pace of play affects others and they **should play promptly throughout the round** (such as by preparing in advance for each stroke, moving promptly between strokes and going to the next tee),
- A player **should make a stroke in no more than 40 seconds** (and usually in less time) after the player is able to play without interference or distraction, and
- Committees **should adopt a Pace of Play Policy** (rather than only say they may do so).

In addition, **Rule 6.4** expressly allows playing out of turn in match play by agreement, and for stroke play, will affirmatively allow and **encourage players to play out of turn in a safe and responsible way to save time or for convenience** (also known as “ready golf”).

Max Times

The starting interval between groups is eight (8) minutes for singles and ten (10) minutes for fourballs.

All are expected to maintain this interval with the group ahead throughout the round.

From time to time circumstances may cause this interval time to be exceeded and **every effort should be made to catch up with the group in front.**

Start and end times are monitored through the Handicap Master System and based on 2018 evidence, max times are displayed below:

| MAX TIMES | |
|-----------|--------------------|
| Threeball | 3 Hours 40 Minutes |
| Fourball | 4 Hours 10 Minutes |

Pace of Play Policy

All players shall maintain their proper position on the golf course and play without undue delay.

Each group shall be in the proper position if it is on pace with the Max Times outlined above, or if not, directly behind the group in front of them.

If a group is not keeping pace with the group ahead, it is expected that they will play **READY GOLF** until they have caught up with the group ahead.

For certain competitions the services of a Course Ranger may also be deployed. The Ranger is authorised to approach any group that is out of position on the course and ask that they increase their Pace of Play in order to get back into proper position. If within two holes the group fails to get back into position on the course, they may be instructed to stand aside and let the group behind play through.

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Enforcement

Rule 5-6. A round of golf is meant to be played at a prompt pace, and where it is evident that one or more individuals are not in compliance with the Pace of Play Policy, the competitions committee may take the following steps.

- a) When a group exceeds the Max Time and finishes more than 13 minutes behind the group in front, the members of that group will individually receive a notice requesting that they improve their Pace of Play and comply with the Pace of Play Policy.
- b) If an individual again exceeds the Max Time and finishes more than 13 minutes behind the group in front within 6 months of the initial warning, they will receive a second notice requesting that they improve their Pace of Play and that a third occurrence will result in an automatic sanction.
- c) If an individual again exceeds the Max Time and finishes more than 13 minutes behind the group in front within 6 months of the Stage 2 second warning, they will receive an automatic sanction.

If any group fails to record their scores on the computer, they shall individually receive notice advising of the requirement to record the playing times.

If any member receives four notices advising of this breach within a 12-month period, an automatic sanction shall be imposed.

Failure to respect the Ranger's instructions shall be referred to the Committee for potential disciplinary action.

A record of all notices issued to members shall be maintained by the Competitions Committee and advised to the Main Committee.

Sanctions

The automatic sanction shall be the removal of playing rights from the next Competition.

A member may appeal any sanction in writing within 5 days from receipt of the notice to the Competitions Committee.

All appeals will be heard by a minimum of two members of the Competitions Committee and one of the Honorary Officers.

A record of all sanctions imposed shall be maintained by the Competitions Committee and advised to the Main Committee and Pro-Shop.

Ready Golf

Ready Golf is a common-sense approach to playing the ball when ready whilst it is safe to do. Pace of Play Guidelines, and updates, will be posted on Locker Room notice boards and emailed to all members.

This document shall be reviewed at least annually.