

Pace of Play Document

Introduction

This Pace of Play policy has been adopted to ensure competition rounds are played in an appropriate duration to make golf more enjoyable for everyone, by:

- *Establishing 4 hours 20 mins as the target time for a 4-player group to complete an 18- hole competition round;*
- *Introducing, educating and enforcing Ready Golf standards;*
- *Highlighting timesaving hints;*
- *Monitoring of play and enforcing Rule 6-7.*

The Rules of Golf states:

The Committee may establish pace of play guidelines that all players should follow. It is a group's responsibility to keep up with the group in front.

From Rule 6-7. Undue Delay; Slow Play:

The player shall play without undue delay and in accordance with any pace of play guidelines which may be laid down by the Committee.

Target Time – 4 Hours 20 mins

“Ready Golf”

If a group is not keeping pace with the pace of play guide lines, it is expected that they will adopt Ready Golf until they have ‘caught up’ with the players ahead.

Quite simply, Ready Golf is a common sense approach to play the ball when ready:

- *Dismiss all honours;*
- *Don't wait for others before approaching the tee and hitting;*
- *Proceed to your ball as quickly as possible;*
- *Play the ball as soon as it is safe to do so.*

Some golf rules and etiquette address the order of play and which player has the “honour”. Observance of the honour came about as a show of politeness to one's playing partners. But out of politeness to ALL the golfers behind, the slow play problem requires that honours be abandoned if a group does not keep pace with the group ahead. Each player should play when ready, as long as doing so will not interfere with others, especially on the tee. Shorter hitters can often hit first, especially on the tee.

Target Interval – 7 Minutes

The starting interval time between groups is typically seven (7) minutes.

It is expected that all groups will maintain an interval time of seven (7) minutes with the group ahead throughout the round. From time to time circumstances (e.g. Par 3 holes) may cause the interval time to exceed seven minutes; yet all efforts should be made to catch up with the group in front.

Exception: when the group had a vacant time on the timesheet before they commenced play.

Follow these timing checkpoints during your round:

- i. Complete the first 6 holes in 1 hour 20 minutes
- ii. Complete the front 9 holes in 2 hours 10 minutes
- iii. Complete the first 15 holes in 3 hours 40 minutes
- iv. Complete the 18 holes in 4 hours 20 minutes

Report, Monitor & Enforce

If a player is seen to be not adhering to pace of play guide lines the offence must be reported to the pro shop. An authorised Golf Management Committee representatives will conduct Pace of Play monitoring using a Timesheet and/or Group Monitoring Sheet, the monitors shall observe, calculate and record as much of the following information as possible:

- Actual tee time.
- Actual finishing time at the 18th hole.
- Names of every player observed in each group.
- Calculate the interval times between each group.
- Calculate the Actual Round Duration of each group.

It is considered a player's responsibility to be attentive to their pace of play. Under no circumstances shall the player approach, confront or abuse the monitor.

Section 1 of the Rules of Golf states:

If a player consistently disregards these guidelines during a round or over a period of time to the detriment of others, it is recommended that the Committee considers taking appropriate disciplinary action against the offending player. Such action may, for example, include prohibiting play for a limited time on the course or in a certain number of competitions. This is considered to be justifiable in terms of protecting the interest of the majority of golfers who wish to play in accordance with these guidelines.

The process for dealing with members that breach Rule 6-7 is as follows:

a) STAGE 1 – LETTER TO REQUEST CO-OPERATION

Each player in any group that finishes outside of 4 hours and 20 minutes more than 3 times will be sent a notice. The notice will request the player's co-operation to improve their pace of play by being aware of the situation and, if necessary, modifying their behaviour and/or their group's behaviour.

b) STAGE 2 – REPORT TO COMMITTEE, MONITORING/SUSPENSION

If a player is repeatedly identified to be in "slow" groups, they may be requested to attend a Golf Management Committee meeting to explain their actions. The Golf Management Committee will not

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impose any penalties until the member has the opportunity to meet with the Golf Management Committee to discuss the issue.

Failure to meet with or contact the Golf Management Committee will result in a penalty automatically being applied. The Stage 2 penalty may include:

1. For each future infringement, over a further twelve (12) week period, the player will receive a 2 shot penalty (or a loss of hole in Par, or a 2 point deduction in Stableford) in the competition of the day.
2. The player will not be able to book on the timesheet for two (2) weeks.
3. The player will be asked to help monitor the Pace of Play for two (2) sessions (approximately 2 hours each) which may help the player experience firsthand the cumulative effect of slow play on the field.
4. The player is also put on a twelve (12) week probationary period. Two (2) further offences in that time will be penalised in accordance with Stage 3.

c) STAGE 3 – SUBSEQUENT OFFENCES, REPORT TO COMMITTEE - SUSPENSION

If a player is identified in a slow group during the probationary period detailed in Stage 2, and as such is considered to have consistently disregarded the Policy, the player will again be requested to explain to the Golf Management Committee.

The player may be “suspended” from competition play for two (2) or more weeks. At the Golf Management Committee’s discretion, extended suspensions may apply for multiple breaches.

The decision of the Golf Management Committee or its authorised representative is final.

Round Times by Driver of Pace of Play

The overall round times achieved measured against each of the abovementioned key drivers of pace of play are now examined, those being;

- Total number of playing members
- Total annual competition rounds
- Slope Rating of most frequently used golf course

The results of this analysis are depicted in the graph below.

