

Metropolitan Golf Club

2016-17 Pace of Play Policy rev. 5/3/17

It is a condition of competition that “the player shall play **without undue delay** and in accordance with any **Pace of Play (PoP) guidelines** that the Tournament Committee (Committee) may establish” and with the prescribed penalties for slow play.

The Committee will establish the MAXIMUM allowable time to complete the play for each tournament. They include time to search for lost balls and deal with other common occurrences encountered during play. **A normal speed of play should result in completing play FASTER than the maximum time.** If a group falls behind, they must play efficient golf and make up the lost time. This might mean playing ready golf or continuous putting, which are both permitted in stroke play. The Committee may communicate with groups throughout the stipulated round regarding their pace of play position, but are not required to do so. **NO WARNINGS ARE ISSUED.**

The maximum allowable time will normally **be four (4) hours and forty (40) minutes** for a stroke play tournament. **Failure to play within the maximum allowable time will result in a penalty of two strokes.**

It is the player’s responsibility to know their group’s position relative to the published PoP and to ensure they play within the maximum scheduled limits. Failure to play within the PoP guidelines will result in a penalty unless the penalty is appealed and the Committee upholds the appeal. Appeals will only be considered if the player(s) have been: delayed by the Committee or; delayed by circumstances beyond the control of the player or the group or; delayed because of another player in the group.

MARKING SCORECARDS: Groups are required to mark on the scorecard the time of the first ball is hit on the first tee and the time the pin is placed 1) on the 9th hole play and 2) the last hole played. **Failure to mark the time on the scorecard will result in a penalty of two strokes to each player’s score for the final hole.**

LEAD GROUP(S): The lead group(s) must finish their stipulated round within the maximum allowable time established by the Committee. If they finish over their maximum allowable time, each player will be assessed a penalty of two strokes to their score for the final hole.

Exception: If the lead group is delayed by play that was sent out before them or that began on the opposite tee, they will be exempt from penalty if they finish over their maximum allowable time but within **14** minutes of the group in front of them.

FOLLOWING GROUPS: Any subsequent group must finish their stipulated round within the maximum allowable time established by the Committee. The elf they finish over the maximum allowable time, they must finish within **14** minutes of the group in front of them. If they finish over the maximum allowable time and more than **14** minutes behind the group in front of them, each player will be assessed a penalty of two strokes to their score for the final hole.

EXEMPTION FROM PENALTY: If a group does not finish within their maximum allowable time or within **14** minutes of the preceding group due to circumstances which the Committee deems exceptional, but was otherwise in position during the play of the final four holes, the Committee MAY determine not to assess the penalty. Being in position means to be immediately behind the preceding group.

the pin in the hole on the 18th hole played against the time the previous group noted they similarly finished their round.

Monitoring of Play: The policy is based on group self-monitoring. In most cases, there will be no official on-course marshaling of the tournament by the Committee, only that provided by the golf course employees. If a player believes that their group is being delayed by the play of another player(s) in his group he should first address the issue with the player(s) involved. If the Committee identifies that a player(s) in the group is the cause of the group failing to maintain pace of play and determines other players are playing within the requirements of this policy, those meeting the requirements of this policy may be absolved from penalty while others may not.

UNDUE DELAY: If the Committee determines that a group or player(s) in a group are failing to play in accordance with the established guidelines severely disrupting the play of fellow-competitors or following groups, the player(s) or group may be subject to penalty for undue delay. Penalties for undue delay are independent of penalties issued under the above pace of play policy (see Rule 6-7).

PACE OF PLAY GUIDELINES:

Groups are responsible to maintain their position in the tournament. Players should discuss and agree to play ready golf. . If it appears the group is lagging, play ready on the greens as well. Also if the group is falling behind, individual players should head to the tee as soon as each person is finished putting.

Out of position is defined by play that: 1) exceeds 14 minutes per hole; 2) if your group arrives at a par 3 hole that is clear of all play and all players in the preceding group have played their strokes from the teeing ground of the next hole and; 3) if your group reaches a par 4 or a par 5 hole which is clear of all play or becomes clear of all play before all players in the group have played all of their strokes from the teeing ground.

Encourage players to hit a provisional ball if there is any question if a ball may be out of bounds or lost... such as headed way off line from the fairway or toward the "no mow" grass.

Players should take no more than 40 seconds to play a stroke.

Except on the putting green, if a player has reached the ball, it is their turn to play and there are no distractions, timing will begin after they have had reasonable time to select a club. Time spent walking backward or forward for determining yardages will count as part of the time taken for the next stroke.

On the putting green this timing begins after a player has been allowed a reasonable amount of time to lift, clean and replace the ball, repair a ball mark and other marks on the line of the putt and remove loose impediments on the line of the putt. Time spent looking at the line from beyond the hole and/or behind the ball will count as part of the time taken for the next stroke.

If a ruling or some other legitimate delay occurs which causes the group in question to lose its position, that group is expected to regain its position within a reasonable time.