



MGC Pace of Play Tips for a Better Golf Experience

The Club has a Pace of Play policy that requires tournament groups to finish under 4 hours and 40 minutes or within 15 minutes of the group in front of you. If a group comes in later than the time allotted, a 2 stroke penalty may be assessed to each member of the group.

Playing at a better pace is not about hurrying up or rushing around the course. It is simply about being more efficient with your time and everyone else's. Adopting this mindset, and not being afraid to share it with your fellow players, will ultimately add enjoyment to your golf experience.

A good rule of thumb is to be within a stroke of the group in front of you. Just because you are "on time," or the group behind you is not waiting, doesn't mean your pace of play is adequate.

Start smart

Confirm your tee time in advance and arrive at the tee early with your golf equipment in order, ready to play. Remember essentials like extra balls, tees, gloves and appropriate clothing for the day's weather conditions.

Play ready golf

Agree to play ready golf on the first tee. The rules of golf allow you to play out of turn during competitions (both stroke play and match play, Rule 6.4) if all parties agree. If you arrive at your ball first and are ready to play, inform your playing partners that you will play your shot if it is safe to do so.

Be ready when it's your turn – on the tee box, fairway, and green.

Start assessing your shot as you approach your ball. Have your distance measured, club selected, glove on and shot planned out while others are playing. Don't wait until it is your turn to start this process. If you are first to play, move through this process efficiently. Read the green as you approach, either from your golf cart or walking from the fairway. Putt out when it is efficient to do so without interfering with other's line of play.

Keep your pre-shot routine in check

Adopt an effective and efficient routine. Pick your line of play once and trust yourself. Try to take no more than one practice swing, then set up to the ball and play your shot.

When sharing a cart, use a buddy system

Don't wait in the cart while your cart mate hits and then drive to your ball. Get out and walk to your ball with a few clubs. Be ready to play when it is your turn and then let your cart mate pick you up. Or, drive to your ball after you drop your cart mate off and then pick him or her up after you hit.

Be helpful to others in your group

Follow the flight of all tee shots, not just your own. Once in the fairway, help others look for their ball if you already know the location of yours. Volunteer to fill in a divot or rake a bunker for another player if needed. Be ready to attend the flagstick for others.

Know the Rules

Read and understand the local rules that apply to Metropolitan Golf Club. These can be found on our Club's website. Know and understand the common rules of golf that we encounter during nearly every round we play. These include free relief from abnormal course conditions (cart paths, drainage inlets, etc.), how to play from various penalty areas, options for unplayable lies, and casual water. Notify your playing partners when you are applying certain relief

If In Doubt, Play a Provisional Ball

Avoid the walk/drive of shame when you are required to go back and re-hit when you can't find your ball. Understand and use Local Rule E-5 (Alternative to Stroke and Distance for Ball Lost or OB) when it is available. Remind a player of their options should they hit an errant shot. (Providing the options under the Rules of Golf does not constitute advice.)

3 Minutes to Search for Your Ball

After that, time's up, move on!

Be Self-Aware

Know whether you are on pace or out of position. Don't leave your cart or clubs short of the green. Place your bag between the green and the next tee box to efficiently move from one to another. If you are behind after holing out, head to the next tee box and tee off. Let your playing partners know that you are doing this to keep up pace of play.

Take Multiple Clubs

Take multiple clubs around the greens or in the fairway, to eliminate going back and forth to the cart or making your partner wait.

Mark Your Score at The Next Tee Box

We've all waited for a slow group ahead to leave the green, wipe down their clubs, figure out where to go, write down their scores, check their phones for messages, celebrate with birdie juice, etc. Don't be one of those guys! Proceed to the next tee promptly and take care of this business as others are teeing off.

Thanks for your help!