

PACE OF PLAY POLICY (v2 May 2021)

“The Club requests the assistance of all patrons in helping to maintain good pace of play throughout the year ”

(R&A) Rule 1.2 provides guidelines on the manner in which the game of golf should be played. If they are followed, all players will gain maximum enjoyment. The overriding principle is that players are expected to play in the spirit of the game. Two key aspects of this are that players are expected to care for the course and show consideration for others.

The Club is responsible to establish policy and implement best practice to assist good pace of play and enjoyment for all members. Thereafter, it is the golfer’s responsibility to ensure the expectations are upheld.

All golfers are asked to play “ready golf” in order to assist pace of play. Examples of ready golf in action are:

- ◇ Hitting a shot when safe to do so if a player farther away faces a challenging shot and is taking time to assess their options.
- ◇ Shorter hitters playing first from the tee or fairway if longer hitters have to wait.
- ◇ Hitting a tee shot if the person with the honour is delayed in being ready to play.
- ◇ Hitting a shot before helping someone with a lost ball.
- ◇ Putting out even if it means standing close to someone else’s line.
- ◇ Hitting a shot if a person who has just played from the greenside bunker is still farthest from the hole but is delayed due to the raking of the bunker.
- ◇ When a player’s ball has gone over the back of the green, any player closer to the hole but chipping from the front of the green should play while the other player is having to walk to their ball and assess their shot.
- ◇ Keep up with the fourball ahead not ahead of the fourball behind.
- ◇ Play a provisional if you suspect that you might not find your ball.
- ◇ Walk briskly between shots.
- ◇ Make sure you line up your putt while waiting for your fellow competitors to putt.
- ◇ Feel free to encourage slow playing partners to play quicker.
- ◇ Slow Play is not tolerated at our facility. The fourballs 'course time' will be 2 hours per 9 holes and 15 minutes at halfway.

When finished putting, go to the next tee and tee off. It is not a breach of etiquette after the first two players putt out on a green for them to go to the next tee and hit, rather it is a good pace of play practice. Ready golf is being ready when it's your turn to play. Your turn begins when the golfer, playing before you, strikes their ball. Each member of your fourball should easily play most shots in 30-seconds or less simply by being ready and you will never feel rushed and more importantly your group will play on pace.

To ensure we encourage consistent speed of play, we ask members to observe the following points: 1. Ready golf is key – please play your shot when ready and when it is safe to do so. 2. Always keep up with the group in front. 3. If you think a ball may be lost or difficult to find, please hit a provisional ball. 4. Do not stop at the halfway house if the group in front has already cleared the next tee. 5. The shortest hitters should hit off first. As soon as shot is played move quickly to your next shot. 6. When a group has holed out move quickly from the green to the next tee box. 7. Call up on Par 3s where it is safe to do so except when the next tee is vacant (Nomads rule).

If ground has been lost on the group in front, then all of the players in the group should take responsibility for making up that ground as quickly as possible. It is inevitable that there will be holes that take longer to play than would normally be the case, either due to bad play or some other delay, but the key is for all the players in that group to ensure that the group gets back into position promptly. The self-assessed pace of play control (see pace matrix below) can assist in ensuring that all players take responsibility for making up lost ground.

Players who continue to demonstrate a tendency for slow play will now receive a letter reminding them of their obligations. If any player or group of players receives such a letter and subsequently, within a further month continues to demonstrate a similar tendency for slow play, one or a combination of the following will apply:

- a) attendance at a session on how to improve pace of play.
- b) suspension from play on the course for a period of time.
- c) being required to play at the end of the field for a specified period of time.
- d) applying penalties under the rule of golf for undue delay.

Very few golfers will admit to being slow players but we can all do our part to play a bit faster and assist others. Those involved may have differing views on what constitutes an acceptable pace of play, but there is no doubt that slow play detracts from the enjoyment of the game. It may be that one single change in procedure does not, of itself, bring about change, however by collectively addressing the challenge, introducing further initiatives and staying committed, we can and will make a difference and we can all enjoy consistently good round times.

For more information and or advice please visit www.randa.org.