

Pace of Play Tips & Guidelines

Playing at the proper pace is not about hurrying up or rushing around the course. When the proper pace is followed, it will add enjoyment to you, your playing partners & the rest of the playing field's experience. Here are some recognized tips for improving pace of play:



Minimize your time on the tee: On the tee it is acceptable for players to “hit when ready”. You should also save time by playing a provisional ball (Rule 27-2) if you think your original ball might be lost or out of bounds.

Plan your shot before you get to your ball. Once you are off the tee, think ahead. Determine your yardage and make your club selection before it is your turn to play. Very often, you can do this while others are playing, without disruption. If you take your glove off between shots, have it back on BEFORE it is your turn to play. Even a small step like this saves time.



Aim to play in 20 seconds. From club selection to pre-shot routine to execution, strive to hit your shot in 20 seconds when it is your turn to play. Help keep play moving.

Keep your pre-shot routine short. 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. Most importantly, be ready to hit when it is your turn. Be efficient after your shot too – start moving toward your next shot promptly.

Keep your post-shot routine short. After hitting and spotting your ball, return to your cart and move forward. You do not need to take the time to put your club away at this point, but can wait until you arrive at your next shot and return the club to your bag at the same time you are selecting the club for your next shot.



Develop an eye for distance by estimating your yardage. Make use of the GPS in the carts, or an electronic range-finder to confirm your yardage. If others in the group you are playing with are not familiar with the course, the Rules permit players to exchange yardage information without penalty.

Be helpful to others in your group. Follow the flight of all tee shots – not just your own, until the ball comes to rest, or you can no longer visually see it. If a shot enters a hazard or the woods, try & pick a landmark to judge where it entered to quickly locate it. 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.

Keep up with the group in front of you. Your correct position on the course is when you can see the group in front of you, not in front of the group behind you. Arrive at your next shot just before the group in front leaves the area where you are going to hit. If you are consistently not able to keep up with the group in front of you, invite the group behind you to play through, irrespective of the number of players in the group.



When sharing a cart, use a buddy system. Don't wait in the cart while your cartmate 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 cartmate pick you up. Or, drive to your ball after you drop your cartmate off and then pick her up after you hit.

Be efficient on the putting green. Mark your ball and lift and clean it when you arrive at the putting green so you will be ready to replace it when it is your turn to play. You can line up your putt while others are putting, as long as you are not disturbing them. You don't necessarily have to wait for the furthest away to putt first. If someone needs more time getting ready to putt, one who is "ready" says, "I'll putt while you set up." Leave any extra clubs on the edge of the green between the hole and the cart to insure you do not leave them behind. Be sure to leave the green promptly after holing out.

Recording Scores – Don't take the time, and possibly hold up players behind you, by trying to record your scores after you leave the green. Wait until you arrive at the next tee to record your scores and store your clubs.