

Prep Tour Pace of Play Policy

Pace of Play Policy/Guidelines Rule 6-7 of the USGA Rules of Golf states: "The player shall play without undue delay and in accordance with any pace of play guidelines which the Committee may establish. Between completion of a hole and playing from the next teeing ground, the player shall not unduly delay play."

The Prep Tour does not wish to apply penalties for undue delay. However, in the interest of all, we insist that the pace of play be reasonable. We believe that it would be reasonable for a group of four (4) players to take 14 minutes, on average, per hole. Therefore, an 18-hole round should be completed in less than 4 hours and 20 minutes (Boys) and 4 hours 25 minutes (Girls). Course specific pace of play event times will be announced in the starter's instructions.

A group/competitor is considered out of position if at any point in the round:

- Group has proportionally fallen behind the course specific pace of play time to make.
- Group falls 1 or more holes behind the group in front of them (Flagstick to Flagstick) **and** the group is playing slower than the allotted 14 minutes per hole pace.
- A player, playing in a group deemed out of position, is taking more than the allotted time to play a stroke (45 sec from the time you arrive at your ball).

When a group is out of position the following will occur:

1) If a group falls 1 (or more) hole(s) behind the group in front of them **AND** has fallen behind the course specific pace of play time, a PACE OF PLAY warning will be given. The group will then be given the opportunity to regain their position.

2) If the group does not regain their position, a Prep Tour marshal will monitor the group to determine which player or players are causing the delay. The player or players deemed responsible for the tardiness of the group will have each shot timed until the group regains position. If that player(s) exceeds the 45 second time allotment, he/she could be subject to a 1 stroke penalty for each excessive time.

3) Excessive time penalties could result in disqualification (DQ) and repeat violations could result in suspension from the Tour.

The Prep Tour marshals will be monitoring the Pace of Play of all groups. We sincerely request your cooperation. If all competitors will cooperate, each event will be a more pleasant experience for everyone.

Pace of Play Tips

Our goal is to educate and inform our players on ways to continually improve pace of play. We realize that there are many factors that can affect the pace of play on any given day, however the bottom line is that slow play affects not only the players in the tournament, but it also affects the Prep Tour Staff, the host facility and parents of the players.

- **Play “ready” golf.** This is where **order of play is based on who is ready, not on whose ball is furthest away.**
- Do not wait for the other players to play before using your range finder to determine your yardage. Remember, time spent using your rangefinder is considered part of your time to play. **Your 45 seconds begins after the previous player completes his shot.**
- Place your bag across from you, **not behind you** when you get to your next shot. This will keep you from constantly going back to your bag after each shot. Place your bag **towards the next teeing ground** as you approach each green.
- Members of a group should **not travel as a pack**, with all members walking together to the first ball, then the second, and so on. Each member of the group should walk directly and independently to his/her own ball.
- Use the time walking to your ball to think about the next shot - the yardage, club selection.
- If you are unsure whether your ball has come to rest out of bounds, or may be lost, immediately **declare and hit a provisional ball** so that you won't have to return to the spot to replay the shot.
- Begin reading the green and lining up putts as soon as you reach the green. Don't wait until it's your turn to putt to start the process of reading the green. Do it as soon as you reach the green so that when it's your turn you can step right up and putt. Remember, **your 45 seconds begins once the previous player completes his putt.**
- After holing out, don't stand around the green chatting or take any practice putting strokes. Leave the green quickly, immediately heading for the next teeing ground.