



Pace of Play Policy

Purpose

This policy aims to address “slow play” as recommended by the R&A Rules of Golf.

It has been adopted to ensure competition rounds are played at a prompt pace to make golf more enjoyable for everyone, by:

- abiding by the R&A Rules of Golf with respect to Pace of Play as laid down in Rule 5.6b Prompt Pace of Play
- ensuring players keep pace with the group ahead
- Introducing, educating and enforcing Ready Golf standards
- monitoring of play and enforcing Rule 5.6b
- highlighting timesaving hints.

R&A Rules of Golf on Pace of Play

The rules are very clear on the need to play golf at a prompt pace. They are laid down in Rule 5.6b which states “A [round](#) of golf is meant to be played at a prompt pace. Each player should recognise that his or her pace of play is likely to affect how long it will take other players to play their [rounds](#), including both those in the player’s own group and those in following groups.”

It goes on to say “To encourage and enforce prompt play, the [Committee](#) should adopt a Local Rule setting a Pace of Play Policy. This Policy may set a maximum time to complete a [round](#), a hole or series of holes and a [stroke](#), and it may set penalties for not following the Policy.”

Principles

All groups should apply the following principles to keep pace with the group playing in front of them, with no more than a minute delay.

Principle	Explanation
Tee times	• Tee times will be strictly observed. • Players must be checked in with the Pro Shop at least 10 mins before their scheduled tee time and must be at the tee 5 mins before their scheduled tee time. • There is no guarantee of play for late arrivals. • Players who are delayed for whatever reason should ring and advise the Pro Shop. Failure to notify the starter of no show may incur penalties.
Ready Golf standards	• On the tee, the first player to each tee who is READY, hits off. • On the fairways, the first player READY plays their shot, regardless of distance to the green, (PROVIDED IT IS SAFE TO DO SO). • On the greens, get prepared while others are putting so that you are ready to putt immediately it is your turn. Once you start putting, you should finish unless you will be standing in someone’s line. • If you are in a group of four and your group has fallen behind the group in front then when two players have puttied out, they should immediately move to the next tee and tee off. • All players within a group are equally responsible for maintaining their position in the field to achieve the Target Time.



Monitoring & Enforcement

a) Stage 1 – Letter to Request Cooperation

A player who repeatedly finishes 12 minutes or more behind the group ahead will be sent a notice. The notice will request the player's cooperation to improve their pace of play by being aware of the situation and, if necessary, modifying their behaviour and/or their group's behaviour.

b) Stage 2 – Report to Committee, Monitoring/Suspension

If a player continues to be repeatedly identified to be in the "slow" category, they may be requested to attend a Match Committee meeting to explain their actions. The Match Committee will not impose any penalties until the member has had the opportunity to meet with the Match Committee to discuss the issue.

Failure to meet with or contact the Match Committee will result in a penalty automatically being applied. The Stage 2 penalty will be determined by the Match Committee and may include:

1. For each future infringement, over a further twelve (12) week period, the player will receive a 2-shot penalty (or a loss of hole in Par, or a 2-point deduction in Stableford) in the competition of the day.
2. The player will not be able to book on the timesheet for two (2) weeks.
3. The player is also put on a twelve (12) week probationary period. Two (2) further offences in that time will be penalised in accordance with Stage 3.

c) Stage 3 – Subsequent Offences, Report to Committee – Suspension

If a player is identified in a "slow" group during the probationary period detailed in Stage 2, and as such is considered to have consistently disregarded the Policy, the player will again be requested to explain to the Match Committee.

The player may be "suspended" from competition play for two (2) or more weeks. At the Match Committee's discretion, extended suspensions may apply for multiple breaches.

d) Immediate Penalty – Severe Breach During Competition

As a further deterrent to slow play, an immediate penalty will apply to any group that is identified as:

- losing 18 minutes or more, or
- finishing their round 18 minutes or more behind the group in front, and
- finishing their round with a duration of over 4 1/2 hours.

The penalty shall be two strokes (stroke event), 2 points (Stableford) or 1 loss (par) in the competition of the day.

Please note: 18 minutes is sufficient time to play any hole at Kingston Beach. Hence, that group would easily be much more than one hole behind the group ahead.

The decision of the Match Committee or its authorised representative is final.

Timesaver Hints

Always be ready to hit

- Proceed directly to your own ball.
- Plan your shot and select your club when approaching your ball.
- Only take one (1) practice swing and prepare yourself while others are hitting.
- When in doubt, notify your marker and hit a provisional ball.
- If necessary, encourage your playing partners to maintain a good pace of play.
- Know the Rules of Golf, including those about out of bounds, penalty areas and lost balls.

Don't waste time

- Even if starting after a gap in the field, your group must endeavour to catch the group in front.
- Never record scores on or near the green. Count strokes and write scores at the next tee.
- Don't leave a cart/bag in front of the green. Leave it to the side towards the next tee.
- Carry extra tees, balls and ball markers in your pocket.
- If safe to do so, encourage players on incorrect fairways to play through.
- Quickly purchase food/drink. If out of position, do not stop for a conversation.
- Do not give lessons/instruction on the course. Reserve that for a practice session.



On the tee

- The first player ready to hit should do so as soon as it is safe.
- Encourage your playing partners to tee off as soon as they are ready.
- Other players should wait right next to the tee markers.
- All players should watch other shots to help pinpoint the position of the ball.
- After hitting, each player should return to their clubs and be ready to proceed to their ball.

On the green

- Park clubs/cart beside the green in line with the next tee.
- Study the line, slope, etc. before it is your turn.
- Encourage your playing partners to putt, if they are ready to do so.
- Follow continuous putting rules until holed out, unless restricted by another player's line.
- When the first two players are finished putting, they should proceed to the next tee (without disturbing the other players yet to putt). There is no point three people standing around doing nothing when the group needs to catch up.

Document control

This policy and any changes take effect upon endorsement by the Course & Match Committee.

Date of Effect	Version	Summary of change(s)
16/5/23	1.0	Initial draft endorsed by C&M Committee