

PACE OF PLAY POLICIES

The Rules of Golf require that a player must play without unreasonable delay (Rule 5.6a). Rule 5.6b(3) states in part: “To encourage and enforce prompt play, the Committee should adopt a Local Rule setting Pace of Play Policy. This Policy may set a minimum time to complete a round, a hole or a series of holes and a stroke, and it may set penalties for not following this Policy”. In accordance with Rule 5.6b(3), Golf Ontario has adopted the following Pace of Play Policy.

GROUP PACE OF PLAY

Allotted Time:

- Each group is allotted a specific amount of time to complete a group of holes and the round at a pace in accordance with the applicable course’s Pace of Play Time Chart. A Pace of Play Time Chart will be established at each course. When a group falls out of position, regardless of the reason, it must regain its position. Time for ball searches, rulings, and walking time between holes is also included in the allotted time.

Checkpoints:

- Four (championships, multi day competitions) or Two (single day, qualifying competitions) checkpoints will be designated throughout the course. Normally completion of holes # 4, # 9, #13 and # 18 will be the designated checkpoints for championships. Completion of holes # 9 and # 18 will be the designated checkpoints for single day and qualifying competitions. Play of a checkpoint is deemed completed when all players in the group have completed play of the hole and the last player’s ball is holed.
- Note:** If a group or player incurs a penalty, the penalty will be applied to the checkpoint hole where the breach occurred.

Definition of “Out of Position”:

- First Group:** The first group (off the 1st and 10th holes, both morning and afternoon) to start will be considered **out of position** if, at any time during the round, they exceed the time allotted to complete a checkpoint, as detailed on the applicable course’s Pace of Play Time Chart. This also includes a first group after a Starter’s Time.
- Note:** In the event of a split-tee draw (starting on both holes #1 and #10), the first group to start off each tee (#1 and #10) becomes a “following group” when they are delayed by the last group to start from the opposite tee.
- Following Groups:** A following group is out of position if it:
 - a. Takes more than the **allotted time** to complete a checkpoint **AND**
 - b. Completes play of a checkpoint 15 or more minutes after the preceding group completed play of that hole.
- Time charts outlining the time per hole, including the finish times for the checkpoint holes, are given on the hole location sheets and scorecards.

Penalties:

- When a group is out of position at any checkpoint, all the players in the group are liable to the following schedule of penalties, pending final determination of whether a breach or breaches of these guidelines have occurred:
 - 1st missed checkpoint – warning (championships, multi day, single day and qualifying competitions)
 - 2nd missed checkpoint – liable to 1 stroke penalty (championships, multi day, single day and qualifying competitions)
 - 3rd missed checkpoint – liable to additional 2 stroke penalty (championships, multi day competitions only)

- 4th missed checkpoint – liable to disqualification (championships, multi day competitions only)
- **Note 1:** If a group has not received a warning at a previous checkpoint hole, but is out of position at the final checkpoint, each player in the group is liable to a penalty of one stroke if no reasonable effort was made by the players to complete their round within the time expected for the final checkpoint.
- **Note 2:** In circumstances where the Committee deems fit, the penalties under Rule 5.6a may still apply.

INDIVIDUAL PACE OF PLAY

Allotted Time:

- Please refer to the Golf Ontario Pace of Play Time Chart, which is available for all players at each competition.

Definition of “Out of Position”:

- Any group will be considered out of position if it:
 - a. Is taking more than the allotted time to play **and**
 - b. Reaches the teeing area of a par-3 hole and the preceding group has cleared the next tee; reaches the teeing area of a par-4 hole and the putting green is clear or reaches the teeing area of a par-5 hole when the preceding group is on the putting green. Both (a) and (b) must apply for a group to be out of position.
- **Note:** In match play, subsequent matches will be considered out of position if, at any time during the round, they:
 - a. Exceed the allotted time to play and
 - b. Arrive at the teeing area of a hole that is open and free of play.

Monitoring of Groups:

- A group that is out of position will be so informed by the Committee. However, the Committee reserves the right to time any group that it deems to be out of position, whether the group has been informed.

Timing:

- If a group is out of position, it may be monitored or timed for failing to comply with the Pace of Play Policy. When a group is out of position each player in the group is expected to make any stroke within 40 seconds after timing of the player's stroke begins.
- Other Than on the Putting Green, the timing of a player's stroke will begin when he or she has had reasonable opportunity to reach his/her ball, it is his/her turn to play and can play without interference. Time spent determining yardage will count as time taken for the next stroke.
- On the Putting Green, timing will begin after a player has been allowed a reasonable amount of time to mark, lift, clean and replace his/her ball and repair damage and remove loose impediments on the line of play. Time spent looking at the line of play from beyond the hole and/or behind the ball will count as part of the time taken for the next stroke.
- **Note 1:** A player is permitted 40 seconds to make a stroke. An extra 10 seconds (for a total of 50 seconds) will be allowed for:
 - The first player to make a stroke from the teeing area.
 - The first player to make a second stroke on a par-4 or par-5 hole (when attempting to reach the putting green).
 - The first player to make a third stroke on a par-5 hole.
 - The first player to chip from off the putting green.
 - The first player to make a stroke on the putting green.
- **Note 2:** The Committee reserves the right, at any time, to time a group when it is deemed necessary. Players should also be aware that the Committee may assess a “bad time” to a player in a group which is out of position if the player makes does not make reasonable effort to help his group get back in position. An example of this would be a player who unreasonably delays play between strokes.

Penalties

- The following are the penalties, in sequence, for any player in a group being timed who takes more than the allotted time to play a stroke after timing of the player's stroke begins:
 - One bad timing exceeding the allotted time — warning
 - A second bad timing — 1 stroke penalty,
 - A third bad timing — Additional 2 stroke penalty
 - A fourth bad timing — Disqualification
- **Note 1:** In match play, any player in a match out of position who exceeds 40 seconds to play a stroke on two occasions will be informed as soon as practicable that the player has lost the hole at which the second excess time was recorded. If the player in question exceeds 40 seconds to play a stroke on two more occasions while the match remains or has again become out of position (a total of four), the player will be informed as soon as practicable that he or she has been disqualified.
- **Note 2:** If the group in question regains its proper position, any previous timings of more than the allotted time will be carried over for the remainder of that round (round includes practice round) if the group requires additional monitoring. Any group with a player(s) who has a bad time will be notified if the group requires additional monitoring during the round.

APPEALS – ALL FORMS OF PLAY

Slow play penalties may be appealed to the Tournament Appeals Committee (Referee designated by Lead Referee for single day and qualifying competitions). The appeal must be **in writing** and must be based on facts relevant to the reason Pace of Play was not maintained. The decision of the Tournament Appeals Committee (Referee designated by Lead Referee for single day and qualifying competitions) will be final. If a player in question does not appeal immediately upon conclusion of their round, any penalties shall stand.