

PACE OF PLAY POLICY

UPDATED MARCH 2024



PACE OF PLAY POLICY – GUIDELINES FOR SLOW PLAY

The Rules of Golf state that a player must not unreasonably delay play when playing a hole or between two holes (Rule 5.6a). Rule 5.6b(3) states, in part: "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 this Policy". In accordance with Rule 5.6b(3), the PGA of Canada has adopted the following Individual Pace of Play Policy.

OUT OF POSITION DEFINED

- **First Group:** The first group (off the 1st and 10th holes, both morning and afternoon) to start or the first group after a Starter's Time will be considered out of position if, at any time during the round, they exceed the time allotted to play, as detailed on the applicable course's Time Par, as indicated on each player's scorecard.

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) or the first group following a Starter's Time becomes a "following group" when they are delayed at any time by the last group to start from the opposite tee or the last group before a Starter's Time.

- **Following Groups:** A following group is out of position if it:
 - exceeds the Time Par **AND**
 - arrives at a par 3 and the preceding group has begun hitting second shots on the next hole, **or**
 - all players in the group have not hit tee shots on a par 4 before the preceding group has holed out, **or**
 - all players have not hit second shots on a par 5 before the preceding group has holed out.

Note: A reachable par 4/5 may be treated as a par 3/4.

TIMING OF GROUPS:

A group that is out of position and going to be timed will normally be informed by the Committee or a referee. **However, the Committee or a referee reserves the right to time any player or group of players that is deemed to be out of position or may be in breach of this policy, whether or not the player or group has been informed.**

Timing:

- The timing of a player's stroke will begin when it is their turn to play, and they can play without interference or distraction. Any time spent determining yardages 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 their ball, repair damage, and remove loose impediments.
- Any player in a group which is out of position shall be penalized under this policy if, during the round, they take 40 seconds or more to make a stroke.
- An extra 10 seconds will be allowed for:
 - the first player to make a first stroke on a hole;
 - the first player to make a second stroke on a par-4 or par-5 hole;
 - the first player to make a third stroke on a par-5 hole; or
 - the first player to make a stroke on or around the putting green.

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- If a group, which is out of position, regains its position, the timing of players will cease. Timing may recommence if the group subsequently falls out of position, in which case any recorded timing exceeding 40 seconds anytime during the round will be carried over throughout the round. Such groups out of position will normally be notified of monitoring and timing. The Committee reserves the right to time an individual player or group of players, whether or not the player or group has been informed.
- Unreasonable delay can also occur between strokes (such as walking too slowly) and between the play of two holes.
- A player being timed, who exceeds the applicable time to make a stroke, will be informed as soon as possible.

PENALTIES:

Any player in a group out of position who exceeds 40 seconds to make a stroke (or 50 seconds in the specific situations described above) will be informed as soon as practicable that they are subject to the penalty structure as follows:

- 1st excessive time– warning
- 2nd excessive time – liable to a penalty of one stroke
- 3rd excessive time – liable to the general penalty
- 4th excessive time – liable to disqualification

Note: In circumstances where the Committee deems fit, the penalties under Rule 5.6a may still apply

FINES:

- 1st and 2nd excessive times – no fine.
- 3rd excessive times – a fine of \$100.
- 4th excessive time and subsequent offences – a fine of \$200 for each offence.

APPEALS:

Any appeal of a player's penalty must be referred to the PGA of Canada Tournament Director by the player before returning their scorecard. The Tournament Director's decision shall be final. If the player does not make an appeal prior to returning their scorecard, any penalties shall stand.

An appeal may only be considered on the following grounds:

- The player was delayed by the Committee; or
- The player was delayed by a circumstance beyond control of the player or the group; or
- The player was delayed by another player in the group and it was impossible or impracticable for the player to meet their checkpoint time solely as a result of the delay.