

PACE OF PLAY POLICY

UPDATED APRIL 2026



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.

ALLOTTED TIME:

- Each group is allotted a specific amount of time to complete each hole of the round in accordance with the applicable course's Pace of Play Time Chart, referred to as the "Time Par".
- Groups are expected to play at a pace that allows time for ball searches, rulings, and walking time between holes, which are all included in the allotted time.
- A Pace of Play Time Chart will be established at each course for groups of two, three or four players to indicate the required completion times for each hole of the round.
- Time Charts will be printed on the player scorecards.

OUT OF POSITION DEFINED:

- The first groups to start each draw (off the 1st and 10th holes, both morning and afternoon), or the first group after a Starter's Time will be considered out of position if, at any time during the round, they exceed their allotted time to play.

Note: The first groups to start off each tee (#1 and #10) or the first group following a Starter's Time become 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.

- A following group is out of position if it exceeds their allotted time **AND** for a:
 - **Par 3** - arrives at a par 3 and all players in the preceding group have left the teeing area on the next hole; **or**
 - **Par 4** - all players in the group have not hit tee shots on a par 4 before the preceding group has left the green; **or**
 - **Par 5** - all players in the group have not hit second shots on a par 5 before the preceding group has left the green.

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

- When a group falls out of position, regardless of the reason, it must regain its position.

TIMING OF PLAYERS:

- A Referee may time players in any group that is **out of position** or any player that the Referee deems to be in breach of this policy. Players will normally be informed before timing begins but will always receive an official warning before any penalties are assessed.
- Players who are being timed may be penalized under this policy if, during the round, they take more than 40 seconds to make a stroke, which is considered a "bad time".
- An additional 10 seconds will be allowed for:
 - the first player to make a first stroke on any 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**

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- the first player to make a stroke on or around the putting green.
- The timing of a player's stroke will begin when it is their turn to play and they are able to play without interference or distraction. Any time spent determining yardages, conditions, and club selection 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 on their line of play.
- If a group that is out of position, regains its position, timing of players will cease. Timing may recommence if the group subsequently falls out of position, in which case, any previously recorded **bad times** will be carried forward throughout the round.

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:

- First bad time – official warning;
- Second bad time – one penalty stroke;
- Third bad time – general penalty in addition to the penalty for the second bad time;
- Fourth bad time – disqualification.

UNREASONABLE DELAY:

In circumstances where the Committee deems appropriate, players are subject to penalties for Unreasonable Delay under Rule 5.6a, even if a group is within their allotted time.

Examples include:

- Delaying other players by walking too slowly between strokes or between the play of two holes.
- Continuing to search for a lost ball after the 3-minute search time has expired.
- Stroke times well in-excess of 40 seconds.

FINES:

- 1st and 2nd excessive times – no fine.
- 3rd excessive time – a fine of \$100.
- Unreasonable Delay penalty – 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