

SBWGA-18 PACE OF PLAY POLICY

The Rules of Golf say "A round of golf is meant to be played at a prompt pace" (Rule 5.6b). Players should prepare in advance for each stroke and be ready to play when it's their turn.

Expected Pace of Play

The goal of our league is to complete each 18-hole round in approximately 4 hours and 6 minutes including making the turn. Scorecards include a line that indicates the time in which each hole should be completed based on the tee time. HOA1 golf course Rangers will be monitoring league play and will either wave a green flag ("you're playing at the expected pace or better") or a yellow flag ("you're out of position and need to pick up your pace").

Procedure When a Group is Out of Position

If the Ranger waves a yellow flag at a group, this is considered the first warning. That group is expected to pick up its pace of play. The Rangers may start timing that group. If that group fails to make up time, the Ranger may require those players to skip the next hole. If this happens, all players in the group will be required to record the following scores depending on the par for that hole. For a par 3, record 6 strokes; for a par 4, record 8 strokes; and for a par 5, record 9 strokes but do not indicate an "X" next to that score. Players assessed these penalty strokes will still be eligible for prize money. If that group is out of position more than once in a round, the above procedure will be applied to each occasion. The group should advise the Ranger of recent extenuating circumstances that caused the slow play, for example, three minutes spent looking for a ball in a penalty area; having to return to the previous point of play for a ball that was out-of-bounds or could not be found.

Suggestions for Improving Pace of Play

- After finishing a hole, drive to the next tee box before washing your ball/ clubs, putting your clubs back in your bag and entering the scores.
- Get out of your cart and start walking to your ball while another player is getting ready to hit her shot if you won't be in her way.
- Bring multiple clubs with you if you aren't sure which one you'll use.
- Bring your putter with you when hitting a chip.
- Play ready golf whenever possible.
- Hit a provisional ball if there's a likelihood that the previous shot may be lost or out-of-bounds. Be sure to announce that you're hitting a provisional ball.
- Ask the person keeping score on the paper card to advise the group on their pace of play relative to the time shown on the card to help them from following behind.