

## Tips to Improve Pace of Play

**“It is the duty of every golfer to keep up with the game in front and not just ahead of the game behind!!”**

**These tips are not meant to rush players but to help them be ready to play. These are not rules but simply suggestions for you to use when possible.**

\*Play ready golf. There is no need to debate who is furthest out. The first person who is ready should hit if he can safely do so. This applies to the teeing ground as well.

\*If you aren't hitting get ready to play. Know where and how far you want to hit the ball when it's your turn to swing.

\*Don't wait in the cart with your partner. Drop him or her off, go to your ball and get ready for your shot. If you prefer, take two or three clubs and walk to your ball. Nothing wastes more time than sitting in the cart watching someone else play.

\*Stroke and distance is the worst penalty in the game and it's the nemesis of pace of play. If you feel there's any chance your ball may be lost or out of bounds, hit a provisional ball before proceeding.

\*Be aware of how much time you spend looking for balls in the woods. Too much time is spent searching for a ball that will provide an unplayable lie even if found. USGA Rules allow 5 minutes to find a ball. (If you're looking for two balls that doesn't give you 10 minutes.) Don't be afraid to declare a ball lost. Unfortunately, it's part of the game.

\*Avoid walking back to the cart. Keep an extra ball in your pocket if you are in search of one. Bring more than one club, particularly if you're chipping and have a variety of choices. Golf is a thinking man's game and using your head before you get to the ball will speed up the game.

\*Don't mark every putt. If you have a two footer, or something just outside the leather, go ahead and knock it in. Don't rush but there is no reason to slave over every putt as if the Masters is riding on it.

\*Try to determine the line of your putt while others are putting if you can do so without disturbing them. Leave the green as soon as your group has holed out and proceed to the next tee. Fill out the scorecard at the next tee, not beside the green where you just putted out.

\*Help your fellow competitors watch their ball flight. Some of us don't see as well as we once did and need all the help we can get.

\*Park your cart or leave your clubs between the green and the next tee. Don't leave them in front of the green you're playing.

\*No cell phones.

**If one player wastes just 30 seconds per hole, which isn't that hard to do, that's nine minutes per round. The difference between a 4:30 and 5 hour round isn't as great as some might think.**

