

“Ready Golf”

It is inevitable that some time will be lost in autumn/winter conditions because those of us who are lucky enough to hit the fairway will invariably lift the ball, clean it and place it. In the rough, balls are often plugged or hidden beneath leaves and often take some locating.

In order to speed up play we have several ideas.

(Some recommendations may not be suitable for Match Play)

We would like to adopt a “Play When Ready” approach for the rest of the winter with a view to continuing into the summer competitions. This is already being used at many clubs. In essence it means that:-

If you are ready to play and it is safe then play!

No “Honour” (*except in Match Play*) - the first player ready plays.

Players should play their own ball before helping to look for a lost ball.

When not playing your shot you should be preparing to play your shot.

IF YOU ARE READY TO PLAY AND IT IS SAFE THEN PLAY!!

At the tee

Marking scores upon immediate arrival at the tee, except that the first player to tee off marks their card immediately after teeing off.

Hit a tee shot if ready! Don’t wait for the player with the “honour”.

Shorter hitters can play first from the tee or the fairway if the longer hitters have to wait.

On the fairway

Walk to your ball as soon as possible, so that you can choose a club and think about your shot in ADVANCE, do not wait until it is your turn to begin the process.

If you aren’t ready when it is your turn encourage someone else to play.

Hit a shot before you help someone to look for a lost ball.

Hit a shot if a person who has played from a bunker, is still furthest away and is still raking the sand.

At the Green

When a player’s ball has gone through the back of the green, any player closer to the hole chipping from the front of the green should play. Don’t wait for the long walk to the back of the green.

Line up your putt **BEFORE** it is your turn to play and putt out short putts immediately without marking if you are not on someone’s line.

“Play When Ready” DOES NOT mean RUSHING. If you prepare in advance, you can take your time AND play READY GOLF

Tee off on time, especially if you are the first game off on an early morning.

Always keep up with the game in front.

Let a group through immediately you realise that you are more than a hole behind the group in front.

Players searching for a ball should allow the following group through as soon as it becomes apparent that the ball will not be easily found. Do not search for five minutes without doing so!!

It is proposed that the time allowed to look for a ball will be reduced to 3 minutes in 2019. This is based on the principle that any ball likely to be found will be found in the first three minutes of searching.

D Reach (Chair of Competitions)