

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVING PACE OF PLAY



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ON THE TEE

Be early for your tee time.

- Proper pace of play begins with teeing off at the appointed time.
- Allow time for unloading your equipment, putting on your golf shoes, any desired practice or warm-up, purchasing any refreshments and driving your cart to the first tee.

Play the right course for your ability level:

- Choose a set of tees with a rating of your handicap index.
- Or just tee it forward (Apply Legends Rule.)

Establish a position on the course.

- If your round begins on a par 4, wait until the group ahead of you has gotten to the green before teeing off.
- If your round begins on a par 5, wait until the group ahead of you has hit their second shot and moved toward the green.
- On subsequent holes when waiting on the tee for the group in front to clear the fairway, don't be so strict about order of play. Let the short hitter - who can't reach the group ahead anyway - go ahead and hit.

PLAY READY GOLF—

- Pick your line of play once and trust yourself.
- Hit when ready and safe regardless of who has the honors.
- Try to take no more than one practice swing, then set up to the ball and play your shot. Be ready to hit when it is your turn. Take 30 seconds, maximum, to hit your shot.
- Pay attention to your partners' drives. If they lose sight of the ball, you can help direct them to it and avoid any searching.
- Carry a spare ball in your pocket. When in doubt about a stray ball, play a provisional (Rule 27-2).
- Never delay making a stroke because you're having a conversation with a playing partner. Put the conversation on hold, and make your stroke.

IN THE FAIRWAY

"...as a general rule, try to keep up with the group in front, not in front of the group behind."

Move promptly: Proceed quickly to your ball and be ready when it's your turn to hit.

Do not travel as a pack, with all members walking together to the first ball, then the second, and so on. Each member of the group should walk directly to his own ball.

Once you are off the tee, think ahead. Plan your shot before you get to your ball.

- Determine your yardage and make your club selection before it is your turn to play. Very often, you can do this while others are playing, without disruption.
- If you take your glove off between shots, have it back on before it is your turn to play. Even a small step like this saves time.

Develop an eye for distance.

- You don't have to step off yardage for every shot. If you need to determine precise distance, try to find a yardage marker (200, 150, or 100 yards) before you reach your ball, then step off the yardage on the way to your ball.
- Consider investing in an electronic range-finder or GPS.
- If others you are playing with are not familiar with the course, the Rules permit players to exchange yardage information without penalty.

PLAY READY GOLF—

- Pick your line of play once and trust yourself.
- Try to take no more than one practice swing, then set up to the ball and play your shot.
- Most importantly, be ready to hit when it is your turn.
- Let shorter hitters hit away when it is safe.
- Players across the fairway from one another may hit at the same time.
- Carry a spare ball in your pocket. When in doubt about a stray ball, play a provisional (Rule 27-2).
- Never hold up play because you're in the middle of a conversation. Put the conversation on hold, take your stroke, and continue the conversation in the cart or the 19th hole.

Keep up with the group in front of you.

- Your correct position on the course is immediately behind the group in front of you, not immediately in front of the group behind you.
- Arrive at your next shot just before the group in front leaves the area in front of you.
- If you are consistently not able to keep up and a gap opens in front of you, invite the group behind you to play through, irrespective of the number of players in the group.
- If you feel that your group is losing ground, tell the other players in your group to pick up the pace.

Be efficient after your shot too. Start moving toward your next shot promptly.

- Don't wait in the cart while your playing partner hits and then drive to your ball. Get out and walk to your ball with a few clubs.
- Be ready to play when it is your turn and then let your playing partner pick you up. Or, drive to your ball after you drop your playing partner off and then pick him or her up after you hit.
- If using a cart on a cart-path-only day, take more than one club with you when you walk from the cart to your ball. Getting to the ball only to find out you don't have the right club is a huge time-waster on the golf course.
- Volunteer to fill in a divot or rake a bunker for another player if needed.

The Rules of Golf allow a maximum of five minutes to search for a lost ball. (Yikes!! That's a third of the recommended playing time for a hole!) Instead...

- WATCH your ball. Follow the flight of your ball. Watch as it lands. Mark that spot by trees, tire marks, bridges, some physical object, etc. But remember to mark it well; things always look different once you get there.
- Ask others to assist in watching your ball, and watch theirs for them.
- Limit your search for lost balls. Take no more than 3 minutes to look for balls and take relief (1 stroke penalty).
- Wave through any group behind that is being held up by your search.
- Hit your ball first and then help find the lost ball.

When chipping around the green, carry both the club you'll be chipping with plus your putter so you don't have to return to the bag. Every hole ends with a putt.

ON THE GREEN

Park the cart at greenside as near as possible to where you expect to exit the green after holing out. This avoids backtracking. **Never park in front of the green.**

Be quicker on the greens: Read it. Hit it. Tap it in. Go to the next tee.

Putt continuously until you hole out, unless restricted by another golfer's line.

Be ready to attend the flagstick for others.

PLAY READY GOLF—

- Be ready to putt when it's your turn
- Mark your ball and lift and clean it when you arrive at the putting green
- Study your putt while others are putting. You can usually line up your putt while others are putting, without disturbing them.
- If you have to carry another club with you besides your putter, lay that club down on the flag or between the flag and your cart or bag so you won't forget it.

Leave the green promptly after holing out.

- Don't fill out your scorecard on the putting green; do it on the next tee box.
- Remember that picking up your ball is permitted by the USGA Handicap System (Rule 4-1).
- You don't have to put your putter away; carry it to the next tee box and put it away when you pull out your next club.
- If you need to make up time, have two people putt out and tee off at the next tee box while the other two putt out.

Observe "Equitable Stroke Control" rules. This means that golfers NOT INVOLVED IN TOURNAMENT PLAY may pick up their balls as follows:

Course Handicap	Maximum Score on a Hole
9 or less	Double Bogey
10-19	7
20-29	8
30-39	9
40 and above	10

After putting out, don't stand around the green chatting or take any practice putting strokes. Leave the green quickly so the group behind can play.

Set a good example for your playing partners, and politely but firmly encourage them to keep things moving. It's up to us to keep pace of play bearable, and to help save the game of golf