

# Pace of Play Guidelines

A good pace of play is an important element in having a pleasant and enjoyable experience on the golf course, and it can actually improve your score. Remember the slowest group dictates the pace of play for everyone behind them. Any group that gets out of position, especially early in the round, will affect many groups after it. All groups are expected to meet the Association Pace of Play standard of 4 hours 30 minutes. After each tournament, the members will record their start time, finish time and total time on the green Universal Score Card. If the finish time of a group is more than 15 minutes slower than the time of the preceding group and more than the prescribed 4 hours 30 minutes pace of play, *the Executive Committee will have the right to assess penalties against Members prone to chronic slow play.*

## **Guidelines to help everyone meet the Pace of Play standard are as follows:**

### **Keep Up With The Group In Front:**

- It is the group's responsibility to 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.
- Help others in your group maintain a proper pace.
- If your group is behind, try to catch up quickly.
- Invite faster groups to play through.

### **Ready Golf:**

- Be prepared to tee off as soon as the group ahead is clear.
- Hit when ready and safe; do not use the honor system.
- Keep your pre-shot routine short.
- Always carry an extra ball.
- Limit search for lost balls to 3 minutes.
- On the green, assess your line and repair ball-marks while others are playing.
- Putt continuously: If you are not in someone's line, go ahead and hole out.

### **Think Ahead:**

- Have everyone in your group watch where each shot goes.
- Take appropriate clubs to your ball and hit without delay.
- After a shot, get in the cart with your club and move on. Put the club in the bag at the next shot location.
- Move off the green as soon as all players have holed out. Speed up your exit by leaving your clubs on the side of the putting green closest to the next tee; then get in the cart with your clubs and mark scorecards at or on the way to the next tee.

### **Riding in a Cart:**

- Drop your partner off at his ball, then ride ahead to your ball or get out and walk to your ball with a few clubs.
- If cart path only, anticipate your shot by carrying several clubs with you.

Unusual circumstances occurring on the course that affect pace of play must be noted on the universal scorecard, e.g., cart breaks down, time gap between starting tee times, rain delay, and serious illness.