

## Metro St Louis Seniors Golf Pace of Play - 2018 Year End

### 2018 RESULTS DETAILS

#### START TYPE IMPACT

Start Type has a critical role in POP. Shotgun starts with multiple, consecutive A/B tee groups causes a big increase in pace. "A" group players have to wait for each A/B group clears ahead. More "B"s, slower play.

We eliminated Reverse Shotgun starts in course contracts for 2018. Unfortunately, we still had some starts where the "B" groups were concentrated, consecutively on a small portion of the courses. This hurt pace significantly. This is a Starter education problem.

Further, when we have more than about 110 to 120 players on a Shotgun start, we will have many consecutive "B" groups. This will significantly slow pace. Division limit on members has helped over the last 5 years. We may need limit division membership to 150 (to get 100 to 120 players on the course).

### 2018 Pace of Play Summary By Start YTD as of 8/17

START	PLAYED	Tee Groups	AVG Play	MAX	MIN
SG Result	21	22	04:42	05:06	04:13
TEE Result	61	23	04:32	04:55	04:03
Grand Total	82	23	04:35	04:58	04:05

#### 2017 Tee Group Times by Start Type

Average Pace of Play			
Start	Front	Last	Average
Shotgun	04:02	04:54	04:30
Reverse SG	04:14	05:11	04:47
Split Tee	03:58	04:51	04:27

## 2018 DIVISION PACE

### 2018 Pace of Play Summary By Division By Start YTD as of 8/17

DIV	START	COURSE	Tee Groups	AVG Play	MAX	MIN
1 Result	SG	5	17	04:42	05:07	04:13
1 Result	TEE	13	17	04:41	05:04	04:08
2 Result	SG	4	24	04:46	05:05	04:14
2 Result	TEE	13	22	04:29	04:58	03:57
3 Result	SG	2	25	04:42	05:02	04:20
3 Result	TEE	15	24	04:26	04:44	04:03
4 Result	SG	5	25	04:27	04:54	04:00
4 Result	TEE	12	26	04:32	04:59	04:00
5 Result	SG	5	24	04:50	05:16	04:21
5 Result	TEE	8	25	04:38	04:57	04:08

## 2017 DIVISION PACE

Division	Average Tee Group Play Times				ST Only	SG Only	RSG Only
	Avg Play	Min	Max	Avg			
Div 1	73	04:08	05:00	04:35	04:28	04:35	04:53
Div 2	79	04:02	04:52	04:30	04:27	04:26	04:45
Div 3	95	04:03	04:49	04:28	04:27	04:26	04:52
Div 4	89	03:54	04:56	04:25	04:23	04:25	05:08
Div 5	87	04:03	04:54	04:31	04:29	04:33	04:48

ST = Split Tee, SG = Shotgun. RSG = Reverse Shotgun

For Split Tee Starts, all divisions had tee group average pace under 4:32. Shotgun starts averaged 4:42. However, Division 4 had SG starts matching Tee starts matching 2017. Div 1, 2, 3, and 5 had SG starts about 10 minutes slower than 2017. Problems of weather and path only conditions may explain some of the differences. However, several SG outings for these divisions had several consecutive B groups (similar to Reverse Shotgun). Division 4 may have a good process for filling holes for Shotgun Starts. Their starts essentially matched pace with the Tee Starts and with Regular SG from 2017. May need more education on SG setup for starters.

For all starts, when the last tee groups finished up to 45 slower than the fastest groups, average time was usually pretty good.

However, for a number of events the slowest group was 1 to 1 ½ hours slower than the fastest group. These were the slowest average rounds with the slowest group(s) clearly slowing everyone.

Again in 2018, Division 1 shows a slightly longer pace than other divisions (5 to 10 minutes). The average gross score (and handicap index) for Division 1 is about 5 point higher than Div 2 – 5. So more strokes = more time.

## SLOWEST TEE GROUPS

We had 32 tournaments where at least one tee group finished over 5 hours. For the 16 slowest rounds (over 4:45 average), the slowest groups ended from 45 minutes to 1:30 slower than the fastest group. These exceptionally slow groups affected most other groups on the course.

### 2018 SLOWEST OUTINGS Pace of Play Summary By Division and Course

YTD as of 8/17

DIV	DATE	COURSE	START	TEMP		CARTS	Tee Groups	AVG Play	MAX	MIN
2	5/4/18	Acoms	SG	66	Wet	PO	21	04:58	05:22	04:14
2	5/25/18	Annabriar	SG	88	Dry	90D	24	05:03	05:21	04:35
5	7/12/18	Annabriar	SG	85	Dry	90D	27	05:02	05:40	04:35
1	6/29/18	Annabriar	SG	90	0	90D	17	04:57	05:34	04:30
2	7/27/18	Bear Creek		68	Dry	90D	21	04:51	05:27	04:26
1	6/1/18	Emerald Greens		84	Dry	90D	17	04:48	05:13	03:54
4	7/29/18	Emerald Greens		85	Dry	90D	26	04:47	05:20	04:22
5	5/22/18	Florissant	SG	90	Dry	90 D	13	04:50	05:14	04:22
1	7/27/18	Florissant	SG	80	dry	90D	18	04:47	05:20	04:10
1	4/13/18	Incline Village		Cold	Dry	90D	18	05:05	05:40	04:10
1	7/20/18	Prairies		88	Dry	90D	17	04:58	05:25	04:41
1	4/27/18	S T Olin	SG	40	Dry	90D	16	04:57	05:17	04:36
5	8/2/18	S T Olin	SG	80	Dry	90D	26	04:54	05:16	04:32
1	6/8/18	Wolf Hollow		70	Dry	90D	16	04:58	05:25	04:41
5	4/12/18	Wolf Hollow		0	Dry	90D	28	04:51	05:13	04:28
5	6/28/18	Falls		85	Dry	PO	28	04:45	05:05	04:08

Weather or Path Only conditions were NOT a significant factor. Only 1 of the rounds noted rain and only 2 had Path Only conditions. The fastest groups for most of these events were finishing between 3:54 to 4:41 indicating that conditions were pretty good.

The the slowest groups had most impact on the event when they were in early or starting groups. Simply put, the slowest group delayed everyone behind and increased the play time for everyone.

### COURSE DIFFICULTY – A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR

Again for 2018, most of the slowest rounds were concentrated in a small number of courses.

Annabriar, Emerald Greens, Florissant, Wolf Hollow, ST Olin, Bear Creek accounted for most of the slowest rounds.

We feel strongly that challenging courses must be a part of our schedule. These courses feature tighter fairways, water, blind shots, and during some portions of the year challenging rough.

We will encourage members to move to forward tees to better balance the challenge with their abilities.

In addition lost ball searches for these courses can be a big problem. Balls are cheap, our time and patience are not. Metro Seniors lost or OB ball policy is very generous. Spending time looking for a hopelessly lost ball is a waste of everyone's time, patience, and reduces the fun for you, your group, and everyone behind. Take your penalty and drop faster and everyone will appreciate it. Encourage your tee group to do the same.

## **2018 DATA COLLECTION and ANALYSIS**

The Pace of Play Logs were pretty successful. Most event results were available to Committee and Divisions VP within a few days of the event. Some VP used the raw data for immediate action where a problem tee group was identified. Most forms were returned by electronic system, reducing postage costs.

## **PACE OF PLAY FOR 2019**

This will be a continuing process for many years. For 2019:

- Continue Pace Log measurements
  - Improve forms and data entry
  - Faster event results
- Continue member education and encouragement
  - Pace results reporting to members, monthly to every 6 weeks
  - Communicate Ready Golf Tips, website, posts, VP emails
  - Encourage member testimonials
  - New member education, indoctrination
    - Special communications
    - Division “mentors”
  - Encouragement and Remediation for chronic “slow” members
- Change Weekly Tournaments for Improved Pace
  - Better education for Starters for Shotgun Starts
  - Get Starters / Scorers on the course earlier