



PACE OF PLAY GUIDELINES FOR STAFF AND RULES OFFICIALS

The purpose of the SCGA Pace of Play Policy is to put the responsibility of pace of play on the players and to have each pairing group play faster than their maximum allowable time. One goal of this policy is for rules officials to spend less time monitoring pace of play during tournaments. Rules officials do not need to communicate with players regarding pace of play except in accordance with the guidelines below. The purpose of this document is to provide SCGA staff and rules officials with internal procedures and guidelines for administering the SCGA Pace of Play Policy.

WHEN RULES OFFICIALS SHOULD SPEAK WITH PLAYERS ABOUT PACE OF PLAY

1. When is it appropriate to discuss pace of play with a group?
 - a. When a player asks, "How are we doing on pace of play?"
 - i. If this question is asked, refer to your pace of play chart and let them know the time they are expected to finish the hole they are on (this information is also located on each player's scorecard).
 - b. If the lead group, after completion of a hole, is more than five minutes over their maximum allowable time.
 - c. If any subsequent group, after completion of a hole, is over their maximum allowable time and more than 19 minutes behind the group in front of them.
 - i. If either (b) or (c) occurs, a rover (or designated rules official) should gather the group after they complete play of the hole and announce: "Ladies/gentlemen, I want to make you aware that you finished that hole __ minutes over your maximum allowable time. This is a courtesy reminder that we expect all groups to play faster than this time. Please make the effort to play faster." After the rules official makes the announcement, he/she should monitor the groups' progress of regaining position over the next few holes.
2. What if a group is playing under their maximum allowable time but is not in position relative to the group in front of them?
 - a. Groups playing under their maximum allowable time should only be spoken to regarding pace of play in exceptional circumstances.
 - i. An example of an exceptional circumstance would be a group that is barely under its maximum allowable time and has a significant gap (e.g. two holes open) in front of them.
 - ii. A group playing under their maximum allowable time that is a shot or a hole out of position is not considered an exceptional circumstance and should not be spoken to.

MONITORING GROUPS

1. If a group asks to be monitored, who will monitor them and what should the person monitoring the group look for?
 - a. The rules chair, rover, or an assigned rules official will monitor the group in question. That person should monitor how long the group takes to play each hole, how long each player

- takes to play each stroke, and whether each player is making an effort to play efficiently and in accordance with the player responsibilities.
- b. The benchmark when timing players is to determine if they're playing a stroke within 40 seconds after timing of the player's stroke begins. If an individual takes longer than 40 seconds to play a stroke, they are deemed to be part of the reason the group may be liable to the pace of play penalty.
2. If a group asks to be monitored and the committee becomes aware of a player that is slower than the others, how would the penalty be applied to that player/group?
 - a. When a rules official that has been asked to monitor a group identifies a slow player(s) that is causing the group to be delayed, they should notify staff and the rules chair and discuss what they observed.
 - b. If a group misses its checkpoint, the pace of play official on the final hole should still notify **the entire group** upon completion of the final hole that they are liable to penalty under the SCGA Pace of Play Policy. Staff and/or the tournament committee will notify the group at the scoring area as to who, if anyone, within the group will be penalized.

CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH WARRANT WAIVING THE PACE OF PLAY PENALTY

1. The SCGA Pace of Play Policy states that a group in violation of the policy may be exempt from penalty in the event of a ruling or ball search on the final hole, or in the case of any other circumstance(s) that the committee deems to be exceptional that occurred during the final four holes of their round when they were previously in position during these four holes. What types of circumstances should the committee deem to be exceptional?
 - a. The accordion effect.
 - i. The accordion effect occurs when a group suddenly plays a hole or holes faster than they have previously played and this causes the group behind them to fall out of position.
 - ii. A group that was in position at any point during their final four holes **may** be exempt from penalty if the accordion effect occurs. One factor to consider would be whether the group made a reasonable effort to complete their round within the maximum allowable time established for the remaining hole(s) in question.
 - b. A ruling or ball search during any of the last four holes that, in the committee's view, took more time than the group could reasonably be expected to make up.
 - c. Other circumstances that, in the committee's view, are satisfactory reasons for failure to meet the pace of play requirements.

APPEALS PROCESS

1. Who should be a part of the appeal process charged with reviewing a pace of play penalty?
 - a. The tournament committee and any other rules officials involved with timing or monitoring the group in question.
2. How will the committee handle the appeal when scorecards from other groups are coming in?
 - a. Staff will notify the individual or group of their penalty when they arrive at the scoring area. If the tournament committee decides to review the situation further, it should take the players away from the scoring area to discuss the situation in private.
3. What questions/verbiage should be used when reviewing a penalty with players?

- a. To ensure consistency during appeals, the following statements/questions should be presented to the players:
 - i. Give them the facts (e.g. “Your group was scheduled to finish at 1:20 but actually finished at 1:28, eight minutes over your maximum allowable time. You also finished 16 minutes behind the group in front of you.”).
 - ii. “Why did you miss your checkpoint?”
 - iii. Refer to internal guidelines on circumstances which warrant waiving the pace of play penalty.
 - iv. If the penalty is upheld, “Players, the penalty for your group stands. Please add two penalty strokes to your score on the final hole.”

MISCELLANEOUS

1. When is a group considered to be “in position?”
 - a. Being in position means to be immediately behind the group in front of you.
 - i. On a par 3 this means being on the tee ready to play when the group ahead leaves the putting green.
 - ii. On a par 4 or par 5 this means being in the fairway ready to play when the group ahead leaves the putting green.
2. What happens if a player or group unduly delays play during the round?
 - a. Rule 5.6 applies (Unreasonable Delay; Prompt Pace of Play) irrespective of this policy to a player or group that unduly delays play.
 - i. In general, a penalty – or even communication with a player or group – outside the realm of this policy is not advised. However, there may be exceptional circumstances, such as a player delaying play for ten minutes to search for a lost club, which warrant a penalty under Rule 5.6.
3. What happens if a player chooses to ignore the pace of play policy and intentionally plays slowly to prove a point?
 - a. The SCGA Code of Conduct or Rule 1.2 (Standards of Player Conduct) may be applied.

STAFF, COMMITTEE AND PLAYER RESPONSIBILITIES

Staff Responsibilities

- Establish the maximum allowable time for each hole and the round and ensure it is reflected accurately on each player’s scorecard and the pace of play chart. Information such as walking times from greens to tees and turn times should be factored into this maximum allowable time;
- Communicate the policy and requirements to players in advance of the event;
- Ensure that the starters are comfortable discussing the policy with players and that the entire committee has a strong understanding of the policy;
- Set up SCGA clocks on the driving range and putting green. Move these clocks, along with pace of play signage, to the 9th and 18th tees prior to the first groups arriving there;
- Be available to answer questions prior to the round;
- Multi-task at the scoring area, entering scores while dealing with potential pace of play appeals;
- Handle group penalty reviews in coordination with the rules chair and tournament committee;
- Monitor, document, and evaluate the pace of play stats for the entire field after each event.

Committee Responsibilities

- Only communicate with players regarding pace of play as outlined in this document;
- Record the time each group finishes the hole(s) you are assigned on the pace of play chart. This is internal information to be used if a group is penalized and requests an appeal. This information will also assist staff in evaluating the maximum allowable time established for the golf course;
- If a player requests that his/her group be monitored, notify staff or the rules chair immediately and follow the monitoring procedures within this document.

Player Responsibilities

- Read and understand the policy. Ask questions in advance of the round;
- Play ready golf throughout the round;
- Check the group's pace throughout the round relative to the maximum allowable time on the scorecard;
- Make every effort to finish the round within the maximum allowable time or within 14 minutes of the group ahead.