

PACE OF PLAY TIPS

Playing vs Positioning

It takes less than an hour to “play” 18 holes of golf. The other 2½ to 4½ hours is spent in “logistical positioning” – getting to the next shots with the right equipment. That means the pace at which you walk, the way you plan your shots while you walk and being ready when you get to your ball.

Slow play on the golf course is usually a condition that a golfer acquires over time, as he or she acquires bad habits. Or it’s the result of the golfer never having been taught proper pace of play etiquette. This mean a slow golfer can usually be cured of his or her condition. Of course, that golfer has to be aware that he is slow, and that is where playing partners come into play.

But, as we often take a look at other golfers on the course and notice the things they do to slow down play, we should also take a look at ourselves. When we do take an honest look at ourselves, we often discover we’re doing many of the same things to slow down play that we are complaining about others doing.

Tips to Improve Pace of Play

- Play ready golf throughout the entire round
- Walk fast
- The first person to complete each hole should immediately go to the next tee and is expected to be the first person to tee off. The third person to finish should replace the flag
- Know where your group is in relation to the group in front of you
- Get your yardage and be ready to play before it is your turn to play
- If someone is not quite ready to play, another player should play before them
- When any shot heads toward the rough, a water hazard or trees, all players should watch closely as to where the ball lands
- Read your putt before it is your turn to play
- Recognize when someone will need the flagstick attended or your ball marked
- Place your golf bag or park your golf cart near the next teeing ground
- If your ball might be lost outside a water hazard or out of bounds, play a Provisional Ball (Rule 27-2)