

How to Speed the Pace of Play in a Golf Tournament

How can you and your group contribute to fast-paced golf?

- **Before** beginning **your round**, make sure you have tees, a ball marker, a green repair tool and your golf glove ready to go.
- **Be aware** of your position with regard to the group in front and keep up with that group.
- **Be the advocate** in your group for staying on pace and alert other players in your group if you feel your group is falling behind.
- **Be ready to play your shot and be prepared to hit out of sequence** if a player is not ready or able to hit. (**Ready golf!**)
- Don't start a conversation on the tee if the fairway is open.
- **Watch intently** in case you or your playing partner hits an errant shot so you can easily identify a landmark when looking for the ball.
- **Shorter hitters should hit as soon as the group ahead is out of their way**, regardless of the honors.
- **Plan your shot** before you get to your ball
- **Keep your pre-shot routine short**
- **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. Be efficient after your shot too. Start moving toward your next shot promptly.
- **Aim to play in 20 seconds. From club selection to pre-shot routine to execution, strive to hit your shot in 20 seconds when it is your turn to play.** Help keep play moving at a brisk pace.
- **You don't need to mark your ball on the green unless your ball is in someone's line** or close to their line. You can clean and align your ball without marking it by placing the toe of your putter on the spot.
- **Park your cart in a position where the group behind you can hit to the green** after your group walks off the green and it is on your way to the next tee.
- **Place your spare clubs on the green on the exit route** to your golf cart.
- The first player to finish the hole is responsible for replacing the flag immediately upon completion of the hole.
- **Record your scores** on the card **on the way or at the next tee**, not at the green.
- **When sharing a cart, use a buddy system.** Don't wait in the cart while your cartmate 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 cartmate pick you up. Or, drive to your ball after you drop your cartmate off and then pick him or her up after you hit.
- **If you're last off the tee, or everyone is waiting on you, in their carts, carry your club with you** and put it in the bag when you select your club for your next shot, or when stopping for your playing partner's shot.

Lastly, the easiest of all recommendations is to **play ready-golf**. There is no need to debate, particularly when you are in the fairway, who is furthest out. The first person who is ready should hit. That goes for the tee box as well.