

Tips to Improve Pace of Play

“It is the duty of every golfer to keep up with the game in front and not just ahead of the game behind!” These are not rules but simply suggestions for you to use when possible.

Play Ready Golf

Unless in a competition, it is usually acceptable for players to “hit when ready.” If you feel there is any chance your original ball might be lost or out of bounds, play a provisional ball. If you do not find your lost ball in 3 minutes, play your provisional ball and take the penalty.

Keep your pre-shot routine short.

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. Start moving toward your next shot promptly. From club selection to pre-shot routine to execution, strive to hit your shot in 20 seconds when it is your turn to play.

Be helpful to others in your group.

Follow the flight of all tee shots, not just your own. Once in the fairway, help others look for their ball if you already know the location of yours (3 minutes is allowed). Volunteer to fill in a divot or rake a bunker for another player if needed.

When sharing a cart, use a buddy system.

Don’t wait in the cart with your partner. Drop her off, go to your ball and get ready for your shot. Or get out, and tell the passenger to go to their ball and you will meet them at the cart. Avoid walking back to the cart. Keep an extra ball in your pocket if you are in search of one. Bring more than one club, particularly if you’re chipping and have a variety of choices. Nothing wastes more time than sitting in the cart watching someone else play.

Be efficient on the putting green.

Park your cart or leave your clubs between the green and the next tee, leave them in front of the green you’re playing. Mark your ball and lift and clean it when you arrive at the putting green so you will be ready to replace it when it is your turn to play. You can usually line up your putt while others are putting without disturbing them. Don’t mark every putt. If you have a two footer, or something just outside the leather, go ahead and knock it in. Don’t rush but there is no reason to slave over every putt as if the Masters is riding on it.

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. Arrive at your next shot just before the group in front leaves the area in front of you. If you are consistently not able to keep up and a gap opens in front of you, invite the group behind you to play through, irrespective of the number of players in the group.