



## Greater Cincinnati Golf Association PACE OF PLAY POLICY

USGA Rule 5.6 states: "The player should play at a prompt pace throughout the round, and a player should prepare in advance for the next stroke and be ready to play when it is his or her turn." The following prescribes how slow play will be handled at GCGA tournaments and any penalties associated with it.

### DEFINITION OF "OUT OF POSITION"

The first group to start will be considered "out of position" if, at any time during the round, the group's cumulative time exceeds the time allowed for the number of holes played as listed on the Pace of Play Time Chart and/or Player's Scorecard.

Any following group will be considered "out of position" if it (a) has exceeded the time allowed for the number of holes played and (b) reaches the teeing area of a par-3 hole and the preceding group has cleared the next teeing area; reaches the teeing area of a par-4 hole and the putting green is clear; or reaches the teeing area of a par-5 hole when the preceding group is on the putting green. Both (a) and (b) must apply for a group to be out of position.

Referees will monitor pace of play and decide whether a group that is "out of position" should be timed. An assessment of whether there are any recent mitigating circumstances, e.g. a lengthy ruling, lost ball, unplayable ball, etc. will be made.

### INFORMING AND MONITORING GROUP

If a decision is made to time the players, each player in the group will be subject to individual timing and a referee will advise each player that they are "out of position" and they are being timed.

### TIMING

When a group is out of position, each player in the group is expected to play any stroke within 40 seconds after timing of a player's stroke begins. Other than on the putting green, timing of a player's stroke will begin when the player has had reasonable opportunity to reach his or her ball, it is the player's turn to play, and the player can play without interference or distraction.

Other than on the putting green, time spent determining distance and selecting a club will count as part of the time taken for the next stroke.

On the putting green, timing will begin after a player has been allowed a reasonable amount of time to lift, clean and replace the ball, repair damage that interferes with the line of play and remove loose impediments on the line of play. Time spent looking at the line from beyond the hole and/or behind the ball will count as part of the time taken for the next stroke.

### **Note: An extra 10 seconds will be allowed for:**

- the first player to play from the teeing area on a Par 3 hole
- the first player to play a second stroke on a par 4 hole or a par 5 hole (when attempting to reach the putting green)
- the first player to play a third stroke on a par 5 hole or
- the first player to play on or around the putting green

### MONITORING/PENALTIES

Penalty for First Breach: Verbal Warning From Referee

Penalty for Second Breach: One-Stroke Penalty

Penalty for Third Breach: General Penalty applied in addition to the penalty for the second breach.

Penalty for Fourth Breach: Disqualification

### PROCEDURE WHEN AGAIN OUT OF POSITION DURING SAME ROUND

If a group is "out of position" more than once during a round, the above procedure will apply on each occasion. Bad times and the application of penalties in the same round will be carried forward until the round is completed. A player will not be penalized if he or she has a second bad time before being advised of the earlier bad time.

### COMMITTEE RIGHTS

The Committee reserves the right, at any time, to time a group when the Committee deems it necessary. Players should also be aware that the Committee may assess a "bad time" to a player in a group which is out of position if the player makes no effort to help his or her group get back in position. An example of this would be a player who delays play between shots. In exceptional circumstances, an individual player, or two players within a group of three, may be timed instead of the entire group.

### CONCERNED PLAYERS & APPEALS

A player concerned about slow players in a group should first remind that player of the pace of play policy and encourage them to play more efficiently. The concerned player may, before or after penalties are assessed, request a Referee to monitor the group. Appeals for exceptional situations will be considered by the Committee only in the scoring area, after completion of the round and prior to the return of a player's scorecard. Appeals may result in one or more players not receiving a penalty.