

MASS GOLF - PACE OF PLAY POLICY - CHECKPOINT

The Mass Golf Championship Committee has established the following guidelines regarding Pace of Play for all events. Players will be provided with the Pace of Play Policy and are expected to adhere to the Time Limits as indicated on the Official Scorecard.

In general, for most Mass Golf competitions, the Time Limits will be determined based on the following time allowances:
It is Unreasonable for players to take more than:

TIME LIMITS: GROUPS OF 2 or MATCH PLAY

3 HRS and 54 MIN – Avg. of 13 minutes per hole

TIME LIMITS: GROUPS OF 3 OR 4

4 HRS and 30 MIN – Avg. of 15 minutes per hole

Time Limits may be adjusted based on factors specific to the golf course being played. Any adjustments will be reflected on the Official Score Card.

All groups will be expected to complete the play of each hole by the established time par printed on their scorecard.

Checkpoint officials will be stationed near the 4th Green, 9th Green, 14th Green & 18th Green to monitor the position of all groups (in accordance with the established time par) at the completion of these holes.

A group will be considered **out of position** once their first checkpoint is missed and will receive a **WARNING**.

If a second checkpoint is missed, the group and/or individual player(s) will be liable to a **ONE STROKE PENALTY**.

If a third checkpoint is missed, the group and/or individual player(s) will be liable to an additional **TWO STROKE PENALTY** stroke penalty (3 in total).

If all checkpoints are missed, the group and/or individual player(s) will be liable to **DISQUALIFICATION**.

TIMING

As the result of a missed checkpoint, a group may be monitored, and players individually timed by a member of the committee and/or Pace of Play Official.

Each player in the group is expected to play a stroke within **40 seconds**. The timing of a player's stroke will begin when they have had reasonable opportunity to reach their ball, it is their turn to play, and they can play without interference or distraction. Any time a player spends in determining yardage, or club selection will count in the player's time for that stroke.

On the putting green, the timing of a player's stroke will begin after the player has allowed a reasonable amount of time to: mark, lift, clean and replace their ball; repair their ball mark, and other ball marks/damage that may be on their line of putt; and/or remove loose impediments from their line of putt. Time spent looking at the line of putt from behind the hole and/or behind the ball will count as part of the time taken for the next stroke.

All information obtained during the individual timing of a group/player will be considered in applying any penalties under this policy and during the review process at the completion of a round.

DEFINITIONS

Time Limit – The time indicated on the Official Scorecard for completion of each hole. The Time Limit is based on the scheduled Starting Time. If the group is unable to begin play at its scheduled time, the Starter will advise the players of their new Official Starting Time and the Time Limit will be adjusted accordingly. The Official Starting Time is defined by the starter's announcing of the first competitor.

Completed Play – Groups have completed play when all players have holed out and the flagstick has been returned to the hole.

APPEAL PROCESS

The Appeals Committee will consist of the established committee, assigned Pace of Play Official and Mass Golf staff. The player must appeal any penalty at the scoring area before the scorecard is certified and returned. **Lost balls, poor play, and time waiting for a ruling are not viable excuses for slow play.** In order for an appeal to be considered, there must have been circumstances or situations beyond the player's control. Information from other Rules Officials, Volunteers and the Pace of Play Official assigned to the event may be considered in reviewing the appeal and in determining penalties. The final decision rests with the established committee, assigned Pace of Play Official and Mass Golf staff.

Printed in 2022