



MASS GOLF – PACE OF PLAY POLICY – TIME & POSITION

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.

Players are responsible for knowing their position on the course relative to their Time Limit. Players may ask that the group be monitored by a Rules Official, without identifying an individual causing slow play. Information obtained by that Rules Official will be considered in applying penalties under this policy.

Rule 5.6a states that the player must not unreasonably delay, either when playing a hole, or between two holes; and in accordance with any Pace of Play guidelines which may be established by the Committee.

DEFINITIONS

First Group – The first group scheduled to begin play. In a two-tee start, this includes the first group off each tee used to begin play. In a two-tee start with both morning and afternoon starting times, this also includes the first groups off each tee in the afternoon round.

Subsequent Groups – Any group other than the First Group.

Out of Position, First Groups Only – A group that has not completed play of a hole within their Time Limit. (Note: In a two-tee start, if the First Group reaches a group ahead, the rules for Subsequent Groups apply.)

Out of Position, Subsequent Groups – A group that has not completed play of a hole within their Time Limit, **AND** has at least one complete hole open behind the preceding group.

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 the final player in the group has holed out.

TIMING

If a group is OUT OF POSITION the players in that group **may** be informed of their status and given **3-holes** (or a reasonable amount of time if less than 3-holes remain) to regain their position. 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.

PENALTIES

After **3-holes** (or within a reasonable amount of time if less than 3-holes remain) any group that is deemed OUT OF POSITION will receive their 1st Bad Time (Warning). Players will then be individually timed until they have regained their position on the course. Any player exceeding the time limit (**40 seconds**) for making any subsequent stroke will be notified as soon as practicable that they have exceeded the time limit for that stroke, resulting in the appropriate penalty.

STROKE PLAY

- 1st Bad Time – Warning (Group Based)
- 2nd Bad Time – 1 stroke penalty
- 3rd Bad Time – 2 stroke penalty
- 4th Bad Time – Disqualification

MATCH PLAY

- 1st Bad Time – Warning
- 2nd Bad Time – Loss of hole penalty
- 3rd Bad Time – Loss of hole penalty
- 4th Bad Time – Disqualification

APPEAL PROCESS

The Appeals Committee will consist of up to three officials, including the Official(s)-in-Charge and Mass Golf staff. The player must appeal the 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 assigned to the event may be considered in reviewing the appeal and in determining penalties. The final decision rests with the Official(s)-in-Charge and Mass Golf staff.