



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.

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. Time Limits for a hole and round will be calculated based on factors specific to the golf course being played, field size, and other playability characteristics. 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 announcement of the first competitor.

Completed Play – Groups have completed play when the final player in the group has holed out.

GROUP WARNING

If a group is OUT OF POSITION, the players in that group **may** be issued a WARNING and given a reasonable amount of time to regain their position.

ON THE CLOCK

After a group has received a warning and given a reasonable amount of time to regain position, any group that is deemed OUT OF POSITION will be placed **On the Clock**. 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.

INDIVIDUAL TIMING

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.

PENALTY STRUCTURE

The individual penalty structure for each offense of a time beyond 40 Seconds (Bad Time) can be found below. Mass Golf reserves the right to "carryover" bad times from Round 1 to Round 2 in Championships, and if utilized this will be communicated in advance and via the Notice to Players for Round 1.

STROKE PLAY

- 1st Bad Time – Warning
- 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.** 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.