

Pace of Play

One of the major reasons that golf has declined over the past few years is the time requirement for a round of golf.

To make golf more enjoyable for all, it should be played in four hours or less. This can be a challenge on some courses but by following some simple guide lines you can improve your pace of play and make the round of golf more enjoyable for you and everyone on the course.

Be ready to hit your shot when it is your turn.

Line up your shot, select your club and begin your pre-shot routine before it is your turn to hit.

Most golf does not need to be played by the honour system of furthest away hitting first. You should reach an agreement with your group prior to starting the round that you will play when ready even if you are not away and there are no safety risks.

When you arrive at the tee and the shot is open, play away, don't wait for the low score to tee off if they are not ready to go.

Post your score on the approach to the next tee box. Don't stand on the green after putting out posting your score on the card.

Take practice swings while others are hitting their shots. This can't be done on the tee due to disturbing your playing partners, but when you are out in the fairway and not next to the person playing take your practice swing and be ready to play when it is your turn.

Limit yourself to one practice swing.

Line up your putt while others are putting or approaching the green. Do not wait until it is your turn to putt and begin reading the green and lining up your putt.

Be aware of your pace. How many holes have you played and how long has it taken? A good goal is to play each hole under 13 minutes. This will keep you under the 4 hour round pace.

Teach new golfers and juniors about the importance of playing quickly and how they can do that.

Remember we are not "Tour Players". We are not playing for millions of dollars. Don't take so long reading greens, aligning shots or backing off. Be ready to play and move it along.

Golf is a great game, enjoy your round but be aware of your pace of play. Let's all practice speeding up our pace of play and increasing the enjoyment of all golfers.