

## **Pace of Play Notes**

This has been compiled in order to encourage golfers to improve their pace of play on the course. The following are common sense guidelines which, if you follow, will improve your pace without sacrificing yours and other member's enjoyment of the game.

### **On the Course**

- All players must maintain their place in the field, which is immediately behind the group in front and not ahead of the group behind. This is a group responsibility and not just an individual one. All members should be proactive in addressing the slow play problem.
- Should your group fall a clear hole behind (e.g. you are on the tee of a par four or five hole and the previous group has already left the green) and it is delaying the group behind please invite the group behind to play through (irrespective of the number of players in that group).
- No more than five minutes is allowed to search for a ball. If you can't find your ball in 5 minutes you must proceed by enforcing the golf rules governing the conditions under which your ball was lost. If more than one ball needs to be found, split up and search for all the balls at the same time.
- If you hit a ball that you think may be hard to find, or it may be out of bounds, please hit a provisional ball, the total delays spent in searching and going back to play another could be up to 15 minutes!
- Go to your ball and get ready to hit your next shot as soon as it is feasible; i.e., not impeding another player's shot or endangering yourself. Don't always wait for your mate to play before going to your ball.
- Walk briskly between shots.
- Leaving your golf bag, buggy or cart strategically placed to the side of the green nearest the next tee and not at the front of the green you are playing, for nothing is worse than watching the players ahead put out and then trudge back to their bags before proceeding to the next tee!
- Buggy users should be particularly aware of the extra time taken in sharing a cart and look for ways to speed up play, for example, move ahead of walkers to look for possibly lost balls, try to position the cart for easy access when leaving the green to reduce the number of times that you have to get in and out.
- Always conduct yourself in a disciplined manner. Try and demonstrate courtesy and sportsmanship at all times, irrespective of how competitive you may be - this is essentially the SPIRIT OF THE GAME.

### **On the Green**

- The player closest to the hole should be responsible for the flag and ensuring it is held if requested or removed as necessary.
- When you reach the green, move to your ball and repair any pitch marks. Where possible, line up your putt prior to your turn to putt.
- If your ball needs to be marked, then do it as quickly as you can. Anticipate the requirements of your fellow player. Move back and line up your putt.
- If playing a Stableford event and you can no longer score on that hole, pick up your ball and let others continue.
- The first player to finish putting should then take control of the flag and be ready to replace it in the hole when the final player has completed the hole.
- Players should proceed to the next tee without delay. The following group should be waiting to play their approach shots, so the path taken to the next tee should be borne in mind.
- Think ahead; leave your trolley or buggy in a place where you won't be hindering the following players.

### **Marking Cards**

- Cards should be marked as quickly as possible after completing the hole, but it is best to mark the cards at the next tee. BUT if you are the first to play off the tee then do so and then mark your card. And remember-

**At all times your place in the field is immediately behind the group in front and not in front of the group behind.**