

## **Pace of Play Committee**

The committee was tasked with coming up with some solutions for addressing “pace of play” problems that occur from time to time during our weekly tournaments. The committee recognizes that slow play does not happen every week (especially if we ourselves are caught behind slower groups in front of us), but that when we do cause slow play, it can cause back ups throughout the course that we all want to avoid.

Generally, we see the problem as one of not keeping up with the group of golfers playing ahead. When a foursome gets behind a hole or more, and then does not take action to catch up -- and keep up -- with the foursome in front of them, it affects the Triggs ladies behind that foursome, and every other group of golfers on the course. The key to solving this issue, then, is to make everyone aware that it is the responsibility of each member of a foursome to keep pace with the group playing in front, and never allow a gap to occur.

Why is a foursome not keeping up? This could happen for several reasons:

- players taking too much time to find a lost ball
- one or more players having to go back and re-tee
- players taking too much time on the green
- players getting distracted with their phone
- players not ready to hit when it is their turn
- players taking too much time over each shot

Certainly, we all do these things from time to time, and our goal here is one of overall improvement, not perfection! Toward that end, we have created a pace of play “Tips” card with reminders for improving pace of play. We hope that this “Tips” card will help each member take the necessary actions in their golf game to ensure that they are the reason that their foursome is able to keep up with the “pace of play” of the group in front.

## **TIPS FOR IMPROVING PACE OF PLAY**

### **Minimize your time on the tee**

Hit when ready. Play a provisional ball if you think your original ball might be lost or out of bounds.

### **Plan your shot before you get to your ball**

Determine your yardage and make your club selection **before** it is your turn to play.

### **Keep your pre-shot routine short**

Pick your line of play. Try to take no more than one practice swing, then set up to the ball and play your shot. Be ready to hit when it is your turn.

### **Aim to play in 20 seconds**

From club selection to pre-shot routine to execution, strive to hit your shot in **30 seconds** when it is your turn to play.

### **When sharing a cart, use a buddy system**

DO NOT wait in the cart while your cartmate hits and then drive to your ball. Get out and walk to your ball with a few clubs. Be ready to play when it is your turn and then let your cartmate pick you up. Or, drive to your ball after you drop your cartmate off and then pick him or her up after you hit.

### **Be helpful to others in your group**

Watch others' tee shots (and other shots)! Once in the fairway, help others look for their ball if you already know the location of yours.

### **Keep up with the group in front of you**

Your correct position on the course is immediately behind the group in front of you, not immediately in front of the group behind you. Do not allow a gap to open in front of you.

### **Be efficient on the putting green**

Mark your ball and lift and clean it when you arrive at the putting green so you will be ready to replace it when it is your turn to play. You can usually line up your putt while others are putting, without disturbing them. Leave the green promptly after holing out. Wait until the next tee to record your score.

**For a full set of tips, see Tips and Suggestions for Improving Pace of Play ([usga.org](http://usga.org))**