



# METROPOLITAN GOLF ASSOCIATION

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## PACE OF PLAY POLICY

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It is a condition of the competition that "the Player shall play without undue delay and in accordance with any Pace of Play (POP) guidelines that the Committee may establish" and with the prescribed penalties for slow play.

It is the Player's responsibility to know their groups position relative to the published POP and to ensure they play within the scheduled limits. Failure to play within the POP guidelines will result in a penalty unless the penalty is appealed and the Committee upholds the appeal. Appeals will only be considered if the player(s) have been: delayed by the Committee or; delayed by circumstances beyond control of the player or the group or; delayed because of another player in the group.

**Out of Position** - The first group to start will be considered Out of Position if the group is behind the schedule prepared by the Committee. Any subsequent group will be considered Out of Position if it: (a) is taking more than the scheduled time to play and (b) reaches the teeing ground of a par 3 which is clear or; fails to clear the teeing ground of a par 4 before the preceding group clears the putting green or; arrives at the teeing ground of a par 5 when the preceding group is on the putting green.

**Warnings** - When possible, the Committee will advise players in a group if the group is lagging but, not yet Out of Position. The Committee will advise a group if it is being timed.

**Timing and Penalties** - When a group is Out of Position, each player must play any stroke within 40 seconds after the timing of the Player's stroke begins. The timing of a Player's stroke will begin when he has had reasonable opportunity to reach his ball, it is his turn to play and he can play without interference or distraction. On the putting green, timing will begin after a player has had a reasonable amount of time to mark, lift, clean and replace his ball, repair his ball mark and others on his line of putt and remove loose impediments on his line of putt. Time spent determining yardages as well as time spent looking at the line of putt will count as part of the time taken for the next stroke. If a group is being timed, any player who takes more than 40 seconds to play a stroke is subject to the following penalties:

Stroke Play:

- One bad time exceeding the allotted time: **warning**
- Second bad time: **one stroke penalty**
- Third bad time: **additional two stroke penalty**
- Fourth bad time: **disqualification**

Match Play:

- One bad time exceeding the allotted time: **warning**
- Second bad time: **loss of hole penalty**
- Third bad time: **disqualification**

If a group being timed regains its proper position, any previous bad timings will be carried over for the remainder of the round in the event that the group requires additional timing. Also, if a ruling or other uncontrollable delay causes a group to lose its position, the group is expected to regain its position within a reasonable time.