

USGA, NCGA, OTHERS “Pace of Play” Tips

1. Minimize your time on the tee

On the tee it is usually acceptable for players to “hit when ready.” You can also save time by playing a provisional ball (**Rule 18-3**) if you think your original ball might be lost or out of bounds.

2. Plan your shot before you get to your ball

Once you are off the tee, think ahead. Determine your yardage and make your club selection before it is your turn to play. Very often, you can do this while others are playing, without disruption. If you take your glove off between shots, have it back on before it is your turn to play. Even a small step like this saves time.

3. Keep your pre-shot routine short

Pick your line of play once and trust yourself. Try to take no more than one practice swing, then set up to the ball and play your shot. Most importantly, be ready to hit when it is your turn. Be efficient after your shot too. Start moving toward your next shot promptly.

4. Aim to play in 20 seconds

From club selection to pre-shot routine to execution, strive to hit your shot in 20 seconds when it is your turn to play. Help keep play moving at a brisk pace.

5. Develop an eye for distance

You don't have to step off yardage for every shot. If you need to determine precise distance, try to find a yardage marker before you reach your ball, then step off the yardage on the way to your ball. Or, consider investing in an electronic range-finder or global positioning system for golf and use it when permitted by Local Rule. If others you are playing with are not familiar with the course, the Rules permit players to exchange yardage information without penalty.

6. When sharing a cart, use a buddy system

Don't wait in the cart while your cart mate hits. Get out and walk to your ball with a few clubs. Be ready to play when it is your turn.

7. Be helpful to others in your group

Follow the flight of all tee shots, not just your own. Once in the fairway, help others look for their ball if you already know the location of yours. Volunteer to fill in a divot or rake a bunker for another player if needed. Be ready to attend the flagstick for others.

8. “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. Arrive at your next shot just before the group in front leaves the area in front of you. If you are consistently not able to keep up and a gap opens in front of you, **If you cannot see the group ahead of you, you are the problem!** Take action to speed up.

9. Be efficient on the putting green

Read the green as you enter it, in this team format have different team members read from different angles as they enter, agree on the line. You can usually line up your putt while others are putting, without disturbing them. If you have additional clubs in your hand, leave these clubs on the side of the putting green closest to the next tee and golf cart, and leave the green promptly after holing out. Wait until the next tee to record your score.

10. *Be efficient with your clubs*

After a shot get into your cart go to where you will play your next shot, then at that point you can clean and put your club back into your golf bag.

11. *Be efficient when parking your golf cart*

When arriving at the green park your cart such that it is in the best place to depart the green and move on to the next tee. Cart partners should always place the cart such that they can easily move it forward to the green. Never leave the cart behind where you have to go back towards the tee to retrieve your cart.

12. *Get off the phone*

Phones should only be used for scoring and distances on the golf course else turn them off