



MWGA Pace of Play Policy

Policy, Procedure, Penalties, Appeals

Revised February 2024

The MWGA Pace of Play (POP) Policy has been adopted in accordance with the GAM and the USGA, placing the responsibility for maintaining Pace of Play with the players. Players are expected to play efficient golf and to keep up with the group in front of them.

USGA RULE 5.6. Unreasonable Delay; Prompt Pace of Play (POP)

- The player must not unreasonably delay play, either when playing a hole or between two holes.
- A round of golf is meant to be played at a prompt pace.
- Each player should recognize that his or her pace of play is likely to affect how long it will take other players to play their rounds, including those in the players own group and those in the following groups.

I. Policy

- A. Expected POP is 4 hours 40 minutes or less, and **NO MORE THAN 15 MINUTES** behind the group in front. Any group in violation of this pace, is subject to penalty. The general guideline is:
 1. 15 minutes per hole, 5 minutes at the turn and 5 minutes after the last hole to arrive at the scoring area
 2. 2 hours, 20 minutes for nine holes, including all breaks
 3. 4 hours, 40 minutes for eighteen holes, including all breaks and time to arrive at the scoring area
- B. The teams/players in **the lead group** are in breach of the MWGA POP policy if they do not arrive at the scoring area in less than the expected time (4 hours, 40 minutes after their actual starting time)
- C. All teams/players **following the lead group** are in breach of the MWGA POP if they do not arrive at the scoring area in less than the expected time (4 hours, 40 minutes after their actual starting time), and within 15 MINUTES of the group in front of them.

II. Procedure

- A. Note the actual starting time at the beginning of the round. Time starts when the first player in the group takes the tee.
 1. For **tee time and crossover starts**, the starter will mark the starting time on the starting document and a member in each group will also note the actual start time
 2. For **shotgun starts**, a member of each group will note the actual start time
- A. Unusual delays before the start of play or during the round should also be noted, as the players may be asked to explain in more detail following tournament play.
- B. A group is out of position when it is over the allocated time for the holes that have been played and more than 15 minutes behind the group in front of them.
- C. **THERE MAY BE NO WARNINGS** regarding slow play or being out of position. Pace of Play is the responsibility of the players. See the attached guidelines **Things You Can Do To Help Create A Good Pace Of Play**. If your group is out of position, begin by splitting up into groups of two, then follow as many of the other suggestions as practical.

- D. A player concerned about the slow play of others in the group should speak with the player(s) and encourage them to play more efficiently. If the slow play continues, or if the players refuse to split into groups of two, the player may ask a rules official, if present, to monitor the group. If no rules officials are present, the players in the group should document the incident(s) and inform the Rules Committee of the situation at the conclusion of play. During the round, a player may also request that a marshal or pro-shop staff member report the situation to the MWGA Rules Committee.
- E. **At the conclusion of play**, the members of the group must review and confirm the accuracy of the official (electronic) scorecard. At least one member of the group must check in at the scoring area to:
 - 1. Obtain an official finishing time
 - 2. Report and resolve any rules issues or other questions that may affect scoring
 - 3. Finalize their result by verifying that all group members have confirmed the scores on the electronic scorecard

III. Penalties

- A. When a group fails to comply with the MWGA Pace of Play Policy, the players in the offending group are subject to a penalty assessment of one (1) stroke.
- B. An additional 1-stroke penalty may be assessed for each additional 15 minutes the players in the offending group are behind.
- C. If any group arrives at the scoring table more than 45 minutes behind the group in front of them, they are subject to disqualification.
- D. The Rules Committee will be advised of any slow play and will discuss with the players involved. The following situations will be considered prior to a decision to assess penalty strokes:
 - 1. The group was delayed by circumstances beyond their control
 - 2. The group was delayed by the Committee
 - 3. A player or players in the group were delayed by another player in the group, not on the player's team
- E. Once the Rules Committee has advised the scoring area of any penalty assessment, the player or players being assessed the penalty will confirm the adjusted score on the electronic scorecard and finalize their result. The decision of the Rules Committee will be final.