



## OREGON CHAPTER PGA PACE OF PLAY GUIDELINES

3/1/2023

Rule 5.6a of *The Rules of Golf* states in part: "You must not unreasonably delay play, either when playing a hole or between two holes." The following pace of play guidelines have been established by the OPGA Chapter Tournament Committee and will be enforced during Chapter tournaments and pro-ams.

**OUT OF POSITION:** A group is deemed to be out of position if, upon reaching the timing station (*defined below*), they exceed the maximum time to play (*defined below*). If a group has exceeded the maximum time to play, a subsequent group is deemed to be out of position if they "fall behind" the group in front. "Fall behind" shall be defined as reaching the timing station at an interval exceeding the starting time interval plus one minute (e.g., If Group B tees off 10 minutes after Group A but finishes the ninth hole 12 minutes after Group A, then Group B is out of position by one minute). **Groups maintaining the starting time interval with the group in front of them cannot, by definition, be out of position.**

**MAXIMUM TIME TO PLAY:** Maximum times to play will be determined for each day of competition by the on-site Tournament Committee or the Chapter Executive Director. Maximum time to play will be printed on the rules sheet or rules sign, and when practical, competitors will be additionally advised of that day's maximum time to play prior to starting. The time will be expressed as a maximum time to play the entire round. Additionally, "stretch time" (*defined below*) will be incorporated for the overall maximum time to play.

**STRETCH TIME:** The Chapter, in equity, will extend 5-minutes of stretch time for the overall maximum time to play.

**TIMING STATION:** The timing station will be setup at the scorer's table and shall consist of a time clock, or writing the time of completion. Scorecards must be timestamped or punched on the time clock as soon as the player(s) reaches the scoring table. The scorecard does not have to be signed or totaled to be punched, but there must be a valid score on the card for all holes.

**PENALTIES:** If a group is out of position **and has exceeded their stretch time** for the maximum time to play, each player in the group **shall be penalized** for breach of Rule 5.6. If an appeal (*defined below*) has been made, the Tournament Committee or Executive Director will determine if individual penalties are appropriate.

### **PENALTY FOR BREACH OF RULE 5.6a:**

**Penalty for First breach (round) – One penalty stroke;**

**Penalty for Second breach (round) – General Penalty.**

**Penalty for third breach – Disqualification.**

**Note:** The general penalty and disqualification are for two and three round events, respectively.

**APPEAL PROCESS:** Any player who feels they are being unduly delayed by the other player(s) in the group should make an appeal to an on-course Rules Official, Committee member, or the Executive Director as soon as is practicable, but before signing and returning their scorecard for the round. Groups in which an appeal has been made prior to the completion of their round may be subject to monitoring and/or timing. The timing criteria outlined below will be used as a **guide** in the resolution of any appeals. The Committee's decision with regard to any appeal shall be final.

**TIMING CRITERIA:** Players should play each shot in no more than 40 seconds. On the putting green, timing will begin after a reasonable amount of time is allowed to mark, lift, clean and replace the ball, repair his/her ball mark, and, on the line of putt, repair other ball marks and remove loose impediments. Time spent determining yardage counts in time taken for the stroke. Undue delay may also occur between strokes and will be considered by the committee in the resolution of any appeals or in timing play within a match.