



MURRAY DISTRICT GOLF ASSOCIATION

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Attention Pennant Captains

At the commencement of the MDGA Pennant season all clubs participating in pennant are supplied with a copy of the Pennant Rules and Conditions of Play, which are to be read in conjunction with the MDGA Code of Conduct.

After a recent written complaint regarding slow play during pennant competitions was received by the MDGA Board, the board is asking all pennant team captains to ensure their players are aware that the MDGA and all Clubs take Pace of Play very seriously and repeated offences will be dealt with under the MDGA's Code of Conduct.

Neither Pennant Golf nor your Club want to be tainted as being slow.

Rules of Golf

The Rules of Golf (Rule 5.6) state that a player **MUST NOT** unreasonably delay play and penalties apply.

Each player should recognize that their pace of play is likely to affect how long it will take other players to play their rounds, including both those in the player's own group and those in following groups.

1) Pace of Play Recommendations. The player should play at a prompt pace throughout the round, including the time taken to:

- Prepare for and make each stroke,
- Move from one place to another between strokes, and
- Move to the next teeing area after completing a hole.

A player should prepare in advance for the next stroke and be ready to play when it is their turn.

When it is the player's turn to play:

- It is recommended that the player make the stroke in no more than **40 seconds** after they are (or should be) able to play without interference or distraction, and
- The player should usually be able to play more quickly than that and is encouraged to do so.

(2) Playing Out of Turn to Help Pace of Play. Depending on the form of play, there are times when players may play out of turn to help the pace of play:

- In match play, the players may agree that one of them will play out of turn to save time (see [Rule 6.4a](#) Exception).
- When play is in fours, the first match to putt out is encouraged to move to the next teeing ground and hit off should the group be out of position.

MDGA Pennant Local Rule

To ensure that the Pace of Play is reasonable, the MDGA will arrange for a marshall to be on course to assist all golfers enjoy the experience of playing the course.

Out of Position: The Marshall will monitor pace of play and decide whether a group that is "out of position" should be timed. A group is considered "out of position" when:

- All players in the group in front have played their strokes from the teeing area of the next hole before the group have reached the tee of a par 3, or
- A par 4 or par 5 hole is clear of play before all players in the group have played their strokes from the teeing area.

The Marshall may consider the first group "Out of Position" when it has taken more than an appropriate time to play the holes that have been played.

When timing is to occur: One warning will be provided to give the group the opportunity to get back into position. An assessment of whether there are any recent mitigating circumstances, for example, a lengthy ruling, lost ball, unplayable ball, etc. will be made. If a decision is made to time the players, each player in the group will be subject to individual timing and a referee will advise each player that they are "out of position" and they are being timed. In exceptional circumstances, an individual player, or two players within a group, may be timed instead of the entire group.

Allocated Time per Stroke: The maximum time allocated per stroke is 40 seconds. 10 extra seconds are allowed for the first player to play: a) a tee shot on a par 3 hole; b) an approach shot to the green; and c) a chip or putt. The timing will start when a player has had sufficient time to reach the ball, it is their turn to play and they are able to play without interference or distraction. Time taken to determine distance and select a club will count as time taken for the next stroke.

On the putting green, timing will start when the player has had a reasonable amount of time to lift, clean and replace the ball, repair damage that interferes with the line of play and move loose impediments on the line of play. Time spent looking at the line of play from beyond the hole and/or behind the ball will count as part of the time taken for the next stroke. Timings will be taken from the moment it is decided by the Marshall that it is the player's turn to play and they are able to play without interference or distraction. Timing ceases when a group is back in position and players will be advised accordingly.

Penalty for Breach: In line with recommendations of Local Rule K-3, the Penalties that apply for Breach of this Local Rule are:

- Penalty for first bad time: **One-stroke penalty.**
- Penalty for second bad time: **Loss of Hole**
- Penalty for third bad time: **Disqualification.**

This Local Rule may only be enforced by a nominated MDGA Marshall or Referee.

Regards

Meralyn Fage
MDGA Secretary