



SLOW PLAY POLICY

At all times your place in the field is immediately behind the group in front.

Administration of the Slow Play Policy

The slow play policy is to be administered by the Board of Directors and General Manager for male and mixed competitions and the Ladies Committee and General Manager for Ladies competitions. The General Manager, President, Captain, Board of Directors and/or Ladies Committee may act on personal observation or complaints from members.

Responsibility of all players

All players must maintain their place in the field. The place in the field is immediately behind the group in front, not ahead of the group behind. **All Players are asked to record the time of tee off (first tee shot) and the time of finish (when walking off the final green) on the top of the scorecard.**

Slow Play Defined

For the purpose of this policy, slow play is defined as loss of place in the field (effectively 14 minutes behind the group in front) and does not close the gap within a reasonable time or fails to call the following group through. An automatic two stroke penalty will be imposed on each player in the group if a group loses two places in the field (effectively 21 minutes behind the group in front) and does not immediately close the gap by proceeding immediately to the next hole (where appropriate).

Penalties for slow play

- Verbal warning as appropriate but not a pre-requisite for stronger action.
- Written warnings to the entire group with no further action.
- Without a warning letter as a prerequisite, a two stroke penalty will be imposed as the default outcome for slow play (as defined above) with a discretion to waive vested in the Captain plus one of the Match Committee or in their absence another Board member if readily available (Ladies Committee as appropriate). The general rule is for the action to be taken against the entire group and not the individuals.
- On imposition of a two stroke penalty, a further letter may be sent to all members of the group warning that in the event of any further transgression, The Board / Ladies Committee reserves the right to take further action.
- Further actions for ongoing transgression to include, but not be limited to, requiring individuals to play at the end of the field, being restricted to play outside competition times or being teamed with other playing partners.

We would like to remind all members that the low marker in the group is responsible for observance of etiquette within the group, including slow play. Your support of the low marker in this regard is appreciated.

What can you do?

- Ensure that every player takes responsibility for their pace of play and complies with this policy.
- Ensure you are aware of your place in the field – at all times!
- It is the responsibility of all members to be proactive in addressing the slow play problem within our club. You can help by:
 - Being ready to play at least 10 minutes before the scheduled tee off time.
 - Walking briskly between shots.
 - Playing when ready (except in match-play) even if it is not your turn to play provided you can do so safely and without prejudicing the play of your fellow competitors.
 - Not addressing the ball for too long before hitting. Be ready to execute your shot as soon as you are set up.
 - Not taking more than one practice swing.
 - Not leaving your golf bag at the front of a green; always leave it to the side nearest the next tee.
 - Continuing to putt out, unless you will be standing on another player's line.
 - Allowing short hitters to tee off first.
 - Not insisting on applying the "honour" system to play.
 - Call the following group through if you lose one place in the field and can't make it up within 1-2 holes.
 - Whilst excessively searching for a ball, calling the following group through, and having done so continuing to play until those players have passed and are out of range; alternatively, call the group through after 1 minute of searching if you intend to search for the ball until found i.e. another 4 minutes.
 - Not marking your cards while on the green. Cards should be marked on tees while other players are hitting.
 - Leaving the putting green after the group has finished the hole and not retrying putts or practice putting.
 - Any group that is unduly delaying a following group must let the following group through if asked to do so.
 - If you are held up during your round because a group in front fails to adhere to the Slow Play Policy, you should report the group to the Match Committee/General Manager or Office.
 - **Cart users** should be particularly aware of the extra time taken in sharing a cart and look for ways to speed up play, for example, move ahead of walkers to look for possibly lost balls, try to position the cart for easy access when leaving the green to reduce the number of times that you have to get in and out.

Remember, at all times your place in the field is immediately behind the group in front