

Senior Golfers of New Mexico

Pace of Play Guidelines

In *The USGA Rules of Golf*, Rule 5.6, Unreasonable Delay; Prompt Pace of Play states in part:

“A 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 both those in the player’s own group and those in following groups. Players are encouraged to allow faster groups play through.”

Following the spirit of Rule 5.6, we prefer to encourage a faster pace of play rather than subjecting players to slow play penalties. If our guidelines are followed you can avoid a slow play penalty and make everyone’s tournament golfing experience more enjoyable. For violations of this policy, the NMSGGA committee may issue the following penalties. First offense is a warning, second offense is a one stroke penalty and any subsequent offense may result in disqualification from the event.

All players are expected to complete their round in less than 4 hours and 30 minutes (2 hours and 15 minutes per nine). If it is determined that a group is playing at a pace exceeding 4 ½ hours AND it is out of position (one or more holes open in front of them), the entire group may be subject to penalty in accordance with Rule 5.6.

Here are some guidelines to help improve your pace of play.

- Always keep up with the group in front of you. If you fall behind, catch up.
- Let the faster group behind you play through if your group is consistently at least one-hole gap behind those in front of you.
- Remember players behind you also want to finish their round in less than 5 hrs.
- The Committee endorses ready golf. Forget who has the honors. Hit when ready.
- Calculate yardage, wind speed, speed of putts, etc. while others are playing their shots.
- We all use carts. Always drop off your cart partner with their clubs and proceed to your ball.
- Always take more than one club and your putter to chip or putt around greens.
- Continuous putting is encouraged. Pick up gimmies and don’t take a practice putt.

- The player closest to the flag should always tend the flag and the first person finished putting should be ready to replace the flag.
- Always leave carts and extra clubs beside the green and towards the next tee.
- Always record scores at the next tee, not on or beside the green just played.
- Always play a provisional ball if you think your ball is lost outside of a hazard.
- The USGA allows only 3 minutes to search for a lost ball. Quickly play your provisional ball when your time expires.
- When making the turn, gather food and drinks as quickly as possible and proceed immediately to the 1st or 10th tee. Do not stop to eat at the clubhouse.
- Use of all cellular telephones and pagers is strongly discouraged except for emergencies.

If everyone follows these guidelines we should significantly improve the pace of play during our events and make the tournament experience better for all players.