

## Practices for Improving the Pace of Play

Maintaining a good pace of play is critical to the enjoyment of everyone in the field.

SBRWGA follows the USGA pace rating of **3 hours and 43 minutes for completing 18 holes**, but that doesn't mean that you shouldn't aim for less, or keep up with the field if that pace is faster! Our league day score cards include time "bench marks" for you to monitor your group's pace.

The following best practices are intended as a guideline for achieving an acceptable balance between the pace of play, etiquette and rules. The SBRWGA encourages league members to incorporate them into their league and social golf play.

1. During **stroke** play, **play ready golf**, where the order of play is based on who is ready and not who is furthest away. Do play sensibly however, to ensure playing out of turn does not endanger others.
2. Players in the forward cart should be ready to tee off first.
3. Mark your ball with identification. Hitting the wrong ball is costly in penalty strokes and time.
4. Passengers should keep the official scorecard for their cart, thereby freeing the driver move along efficiently.
5. It is acceptable to advance your cart ahead of the other cart providing you are not in their direct path. For example, if you are on opposite sides of the fairway, or when one is in the rough and the other is in the fairway.
6. During social play (**outside** league), know your maximum score for each hole. We have a **net-double bogey** table in PDF format which you can download to your mobile phone from our website. To use it, locate your course HC along the left edge and the hole to the right to see your maximum strokes.
7. If you have an open hole in front of you, or have lost sight of the group ahead, you need to speed up your play! Here are some ideas to get your foursome back on track:
  - Wait until arriving at the next tee to record scores, and limit the pre-tee socializing until you are back on pace.
  - Have players sharing a cart to tee off and depart for the restroom while the remaining players tee it up.
  - When feasible, either passenger could advance the cart of the other if those occupants are struggling on a particular hole.
  - During league play, if you are not in the hole after your 9<sup>th</sup> stroke, pick it up for the 10-stroke maximum and move on. You will not be eliminated from the game of the day by doing so.
  - Have the players in the forward cart putt out and leave for the next tee box while the remaining players putt.
  - Don't bother hunting for a ball that is obviously OB, unlikely to be found, or deep in an arroyo! Use whatever rule applies and move on. For example, on arroyo holes 4, 8, 10, 11, 13, or 16, hit a provisional ball and use it **without hunting for your original**. On a par 3 with OB near the greens, play a provisional from the tee box—applying the local rule for a 2-stroke penalty will cause a delay as there are limited relief areas available around such greens.

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### A. IN THE GENERAL AREA

- (a) **Be ready to hit when it's your turn.** Be efficient with your pre-shot routine. Limit practice strokes to one or two and play your shot within 20 seconds.
- (b) When feasible, take your distance measurements while your riding partner is setting up her shot.
- (c) Passengers, if your ball is nearby, walk to it! Unless there is a mobility issue, get your steps in and don't ride to every shot.
- (d) Passengers, get back in the cart with your club in hand so the driver can advance to her ball. You will have time to clean and return it to your bag while she plays.
- (e) Stick to the 3 minute rule when searching for an errant ball and **don't get distracted looking for balls for sport!** Ensure your own ball is secure, or go ahead and play your shot before helping a companion look for hers.

### B. ON THE GREENS

- (a) Putt as much as possible with the pin in, and if you have a tap-in putt, just finish it!
- (b) Providing you are not in a putter's line of play or line of sight, use the time while others putt to read your own.
- (c) If a companion is recovering from a poor shot, others on the green should proceed to putt. With her permission, mark her ball so that putting can commence among those waiting.
- (d) If you are secure on the green but your companion had a poor greenside bunker shot, consider raking the bunker for her while she recovers.
- (e) Lay extra clubs/equipment on the side of the green closest to your cart so you need not backtrack to get them.

### C. RULES

- (a) Be familiar with the **most common USGA Rules of Play.**
- (b) If you are not certain as to a ruling, play two balls, record both, and ask for a ruling after completion of the round.
- (c) Be familiar with our **LOCAL rules**, especially with regard to
  - **provisional balls on arroyo holes** 4, 8, 10, 11, 13, 16. Normally if you find your ball within a 3 minute search you must play it, even if it is in a poor lie or unplayable. Under this local rule, you may elect to continue with the provisional **even if you locate your original.**
  - **alternative to stroke and distance** for an OB or lost ball outside a penalty area (2-stroke penalty).

Know when it is advisable to hit a provisional ball BEFORE leaving the tee box! For example, holes 2 and 4 have OB just beyond the green, and hole 5 (water) all have **limited relief areas** for a 2-stroke penalty.