

## Practices for Achieving a Good Pace of Play

Maintaining a good pace of play is critical to the enjoyment of everyone in the field. The SBRWGA encourages members to incorporate the following practices into their game to help them develop efficient playing habits and achieve a balance between the pace of play, etiquette and rules.

### EXPECTED PACE of PLAY

1. 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 keep up with the field if the pace is faster! League score cards include time "bench marks" for monitoring your group's pace of play.

**Choose a course that suits your game!** If you are struggling to meet the expected pace of play after incorporating these practices into your golf game, you should consider changing courses. The **GOLD** course is 886 yards shorter in length than the PLUM and is recommended for anyone whose driving distance is 130 yards or less.

2. 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.
3. If you have an open hole in front of you, or have lost sight of the group ahead, you are out of position and need to speed up your play.

### IN GENERAL

1. Players in the forward cart should be ready to tee off first.
2. **Be ready to hit when it's your turn.** Be efficient with your pre-shot routine. Limit practice strokes to one or two and strive to play your shot within 20 seconds.
3. 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 assisting a companion in looking for her ball.
4. It is perfectly acceptable to advance your cart ahead of the other cart when you are not in their direct path, such as when you are on opposite sides of the fairway, or in the rough versus the fairway.
5. Passengers, unless there is a mobility issue, if your ball is nearby, walk to it! Take your distance measurements while your riding partner is setting up her shot.
6. Get back into the cart with your club in hand so your driver can advance to her ball. You will have time to clean and return it to your bag while she plays.
7. Passengers, keep the official scorecard so your driver can be efficient. If riding alone, wait until the next tee before calling for scores.
8. Park carts as far back of the greens as is feasible given your lie so as to vacate the hole quickly and allow the next group to play up.
9. Instead of idling in the cart, fill your riding partner's divot while she recovers.

### AROUND the GREENS

1. Putt as much as possible with the pin in, and if you have a tap-in putt, just finish it!
2. 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 putt.**

## **Practices for Achieving a Good Pace of Play**

3. Players on the green should proceed to putt while another is recovering from a poor shot. With her permission, mark her ball to allow putting to commence.
4. Offer to rake the bunker for a player struggling with a poor shot/outcome.
5. Lay extra clubs/equipment on the side of the green closest to your cart so you need not backtrack to get them.

### **RULES**

1. Be familiar with the most common USGA Rules of Golf. Have your SBR Rules Guide and a copy of the Local Rules at hand.
2. In league play use the "max 10" rule—if you are not in the hole by your 9th stroke, or you have exceeded your maximum score for the hole (double-net bogey), pick up and record a 10. You will not be eliminated from the game of the day by doing so.
3. If you are not certain as to a ruling, play two balls, record both, and ask for a ruling after completion of the round.

### **IDEAS for RECOVERING POSITION**

If you have an open hole in front of you, or have lost sight of the group ahead, you are out of position and need to speed up your play! Here are some ideas to get back on track:

- Eliminate the socializing until you are back in position.
- Eliminate or speed up your pre-shot routine until you are back in position.
- Players sharing a cart should putt out first and depart for the next tee while the remaining players putt.
- Players sharing a cart can tee off and depart for the restroom while the others tee up.
- Passengers, when feasible, offer to advance the cart of the other group if those occupants are struggling on a particular hole. This is especially helpful on cart path only holes.