

# Team Match Play



As the Team Match Play season opens for both the NCGA and the women's golf associations in Northern California, pace of play becomes one of the topics of concern. Since the competitions are frequently a shotgun start, the field is only as fast as its slowest group. What can you do if your group has trouble or has a very deliberate player and your group falls one or even

two holes behind?

**First: Understand the pace of play for the day.** How much time is allowed to play the stipulated round and how much time is allowed for each hole? If this is a morning shotgun, there are going to be other players waiting for your group to clear the course in a timely manner.

**Second: Wear a watch.** If you don't wear a watch, purchase one that can attach to your golf bag and refer to it frequently. Pace of play is your responsibility.



**Key #1:** If you cannot see the group ahead of you, you are the problem. Immediate action needs to be taken.

**Key #2:** Since this is match play, ready golf is not an option; you must always be ready to play as soon as it is your turn.

**Key #3:** Decision 2-1/1.5 allows players to halve a hole during the play of the hole. Tee off, agree to halve the hole, pick up your balls and move to the next tee. If your match is now back in position, continue the match in a normal way and stay focused on playing efficient golf. If your group still has a hole open, tee off again, agree to halve the hole and again pick up your balls and move to the next tee. To be in compliance with the Rules of Golf players must not agree in advance to use this decision, but knowing it exists, players can tee off *and then* agree to halve the hole.

**Key #4:** If one side is in trouble and will obviously lose the hole, that player or the players in four-ball match play should concede the hole allowing the match to proceed to the next tee. There is absolutely no reason to hold up the field just to have the experience and practice of playing a hole.

**Key #5:** Concessions are a part of match play. Remember to be ready to concede an opponent's short putt. Staying focused saves time.

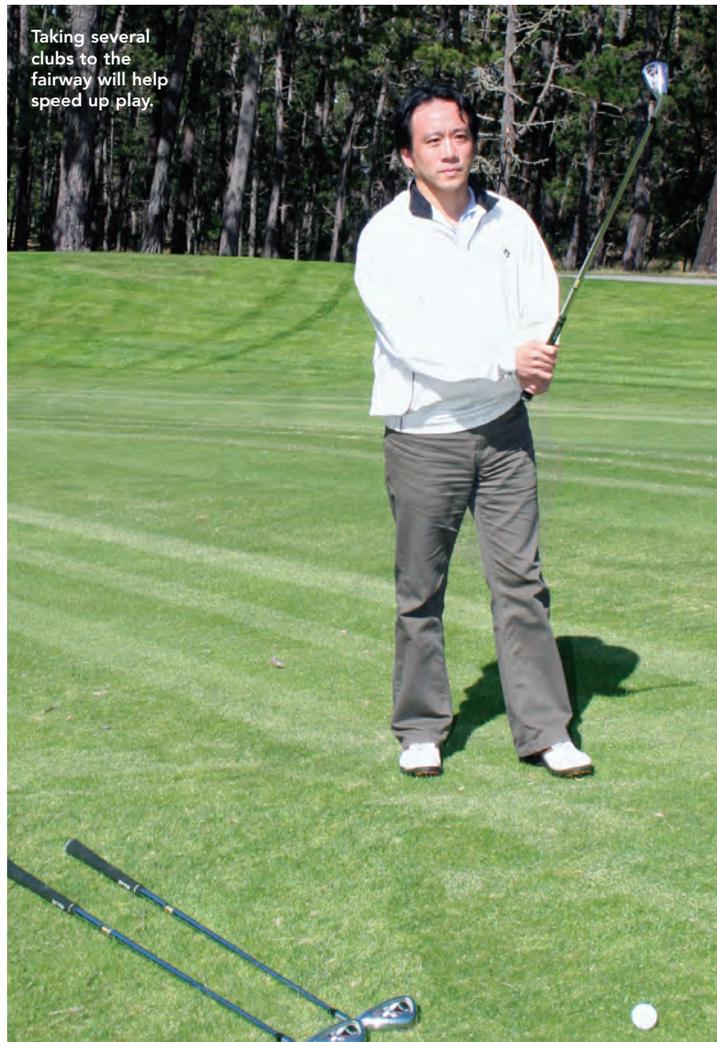
**Key #6:** If carts are restricted to the cart path,

select the club you think you will use for your next stroke plus at least one on either side and walk to your ball. You can be penalized for undue delay if you walk out initially with no or only one club and have to return to the cart for a club, thereby holding up play.

To prepare for your matches read Rule 2—Match Play and Rule 30—Four-Ball Match Play. Also see the NCGA website for some match play situations that will help you with the rules.

Knowing the expected pace of play is part of the Rules of Golf. Playing efficient golf makes you part of the pace of play solution.

*Gail Rogers can be e-mailed at [grogers@ncga.org](mailto:grogers@ncga.org).*



Taking several clubs to the fairway will help speed up play.