



2018 NCGA PACE OF PLAY POLICY

Scorecards have printed on them the **MAXIMUM** allowable time to complete the play of each hole based on a group's scheduled starting time. These times are established based on the difficulty of the course and the ability of the field. They include time to search for lost balls and deal with other common occurrences encountered during play. **A normal speed of play should result in completing play FASTER than the time indicated on the scorecard.** If a group falls behind, they must play efficient golf and make up the lost time. This might mean playing ready golf or continuous putting, which are both permitted in stroke play. **It is the PLAYERS' RESPONSIBILITY to know their group's position relative to the published Pace of Play and to ensure they play within the published limits. Failure to play within the Pace of Play guidelines will result in a penalty of two strokes.** The Rules Committee only may communicate with groups throughout the stipulated round regarding their pace of play position, but are not required to do so. **NO WARNINGS ARE ISSUED.**

LEAD GROUP(S): The lead group(s) must finish their stipulated round within the maximum allowable time established by the Committee. If they finish over their maximum allowable time, each player will be assessed a penalty of two strokes to their score for the final hole.

Exception: If the lead group is delayed by play that was sent out before them or that began on the opposite tee, they will be exempt from penalty if they finish over their maximum allowable time but within **14** minutes of the group in front of them.

FOLLOWING GROUPS: Any subsequent group must finish their stipulated round within the maximum allowable time established by the Committee. If they finish over the maximum allowable time, they must finish within **14** minutes of the group in front of them. If they finish over the maximum allowable time and more than **14** minutes behind the group in front of them, each player will be assessed a penalty of two strokes to their score for the final hole.

EXEMPTION FROM PENALTY: If a group does not finish within their maximum allowable time or within **14** minutes of the preceding group due to circumstances which the Committee deems to be ***exceptional***, but was otherwise in position during the play of the final four holes, the Committee **MAY** determine not to assess the penalty. Being in position means to be immediately behind the preceding group.

GROUPS MAY BE MONITORED: If a player believes that his group is being delayed by the play of another player(s) in his group he should first address the issue with the player(s) involved. If he believes this discussion was ineffective, he may indicate to a Tournament Official on the course that he would like to have his group monitored. The Committee may also monitor a group that is failing to play within the maximum allowable time, whether or not a player has requested it. If the Committee identifies that a player(s) in the group is the cause of the group failing to maintain pace of play and determines other players are playing within the requirements of this policy, those meeting the requirements of this policy may be absolved from penalty while others may not.

UNDUE DELAY: If the Committee determines that a group or player(s) in a group are failing to play in accordance with the established guidelines severely disrupting the play of fellow-competitors or following groups, the player(s) or group may be subject to penalty for undue delay. Penalties for undue delay are independent of penalties issued under the above pace of play policy (see Rule 6-7).

The NCGA Committee reserves the right to review all penalty situations.