



Woodbrook Golf Club - Pace of Play Initiative 2019

The issue of slow play has been with us for many years. Following the introduction of the 2019 New Rules of Golf and the changes relating to the 'Pace of Play', Woodbrook Golf Club with the full support of the Men's and Ladies' Clubs, has adopted a Pace of Play initiative and introduced a Local Rule to address this matter.

The Pace of Play Initiative is a structured approach aimed at making a round of golf more enjoyable and less time consuming. The initiative has five key elements and we are confident that this Pace of Play Initiative will result in an improved golfing experience for the majority of our members. It will commence on 13th April and we are seeking your fullest support in implementing it.

While Rule 5.6 of the 2019 rules of golf allow clubs to introduce a Local Rule to provide for a wide range of measures relating to the Pace of Play, we have decided **NOT** to introduce many of these provisions at this point in time and instead we will review the level of success of the initiative at the end of May.

Full details of the five elements of the Pace of Play Initiative are set out below for your information and will be published on the club's website. The main 'New Rules of Golf' provisions relating to 'Pace of Play' are set out in the attached Appendix.

1. Maximum Round Times

Setting maximum round times are for the benefit of both those who may find it a challenge, and as importantly for those who have unrealistic expectations of what is acceptable on a BUSY golf course. The accepted maximum round times for Woodbrook are: -

18 Holes Three-ball (8 min tee intervals) - 3 hrs 50 mins

18 Holes Four-ball (10 min tee intervals) - 4 hrs 10 mins

Wednesday 4 Man 12 Hole Semi-Open (9 min tee intervals) - 2 hrs 55 mins

These maximum acceptable round times are only targets when the course is **BUSY**. Quicker round times are expected when the course is quieter.

Your place on the course is directly behind the group in front, not in front of the group behind. Players starting without groups immediately in front of them should;

1. Play without undue delay.
2. Attempt to close the gap with the group in front.

2. Start & Finishing Times of Players

The start and finishing times of the various groups of players will be recorded by committee members on a regular basis. These times will be used for monitoring and published for self-awareness purposes.

A clock will be in place on the 1st tee. Players are requested to please strictly adhere to their start time. Starting early as well as starting late leads to overcrowding of the course. Please keep to your assigned tee time.

3. Playing Times Reminders and Targets

A clock will be also be in place on the 10th tee. In addition, Pace of play reminder target time signs will be placed on the 7th and 13th tee boxes. These are to serve as a reminder of the **MAXIMUM** time it should take to get to these points. However, regardless of this time your place on the course is directly behind the group in front.

4. Focus on Ready Golf

Please focus on 'Ready Golf' at ALL times. Ready Golf is now provided for in the Rules of Golf. If you or your group have lost your place on the course, a collective agreement within the group to focus on the principles of Ready Golf for a short period of time SHOULD yield the desired results. Pace of Play 'protocol signs' will be placed on every fourth tee.

5. Engagement of Course Ranger

A dedicated Course Ranger who is neither a member or a direct employee of Woodbrook will be engaged and will be actively monitoring the pace of play for Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday/Sunday competitions.

The Ranger will be clearly identifiable as he will be using a buggy marked 'Course Ranger' Members should be aware that it may be necessary for the Ranger to ascertain the names of playing parties. Data from the Course Ranger will be reviewed by the Men's and Ladies Committees and in conjunction with the data from No.2 above, will be used to identify frequent slow players.

The Course Ranger has the full backing of the Men's and Ladies' Clubs and members are expected to apply a high level of courtesy to the Course Ranger.

We are confident that this Pace of Play Initiative will be welcomed by the majority of our members and thus result in an improved golfing experience for those playing.

Kind regards

Mark and Lee
Captains 2019

Appendix

New Rules of Golf came into effect on the 1st January 2019 and now provide for 'Pace of Play' in Section 5.6 as follows: -

5.6 Unreasonable Delay; Prompt Pace of Play

(a) Unreasonable Delay of Play

A player must not unreasonably delay play, either when playing a hole or between two holes.

Penalty for Breach of Rule 5.6a:

Penalty for first breach: One penalty stroke.

Penalty for second breach: **General Penalty.**

Penalty for third breach: **Disqualification.**

(b) Prompt Pace of Play

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 to play through.

Pace of Play Recommendations. The player should play at a prompt pace throughout the round, including the time taken to:

- Prepare for and make each stroke,
- Move from one place to another between strokes, and
- Move to the next teeing area after completing a hole.

A player should prepare in advance for the next stroke and be ready to play when it is his or her turn. When it is the player's turn to play:

- It is recommended that the player make the stroke in no more than 40 seconds after he or she is (or should be) able to play without interference or distraction, and
- The player should usually be able to play more quickly than that and is encouraged to do so.

In match play, the players may agree that one of them will play out of turn to save time. In stroke play, players may play "ready golf" in a safe and responsible way.

The 2019 Rules of Golf also provide that the Club Committee can adopt by way of a Local Rule its own Pace of Play Policy.

Pace of Play Policies may contain:

- A maximum time to complete a round, a hole or series of holes or a stroke.
- A definition of when the first group is out of position and when each other group is out of position in relation to the group playing ahead of it.
- When and how a group or individual players may be monitored or timed.
- If and when players may be warned that they are being timed or have had a bad time.
- The penalty structure for breaches of the Policy.