



# WEST VIRGINIA GOLF ASSOCIATION

## ONE DAY SERIES

### PACE OF PLAY POLICY



#### **Pace of Play Policy (Model Local Rule K-1)**

The WVGA Committee reserves the right to penalize an individual player or entire group if they return their scorecard to the Scoring Table more than 20 minutes after the group directly in front of them.

- Example: A group that began on Hole #2 turns their scorecard in at 1:00pm. The group that started directly behind them on Hole #1 turned their scorecard in at 1:40pm. The starting group on Hole #1 is penalized one penalty stroke for turning their scorecard in more than 30 minutes behind the group in front of them.

#### **Pace of Play Policy (Model Local Rule K-2)**

The WVGA Committee reserves the right to penalize an individual player or entire group for being Out of Position. The maximum time allotted for the completion will be announced during the players' meeting prior to the start of the tournament.

- Example: The maximum time allotted for the completion of 18 holes at *COURSE NAME* is 5 hours.
- Definition of Out of Position: The group's location on the course is based on the location of the group directly in front.
  - Example: A par 4 or par 5 hole is clear of play before all players in the group have played their strokes from the teeing area.

#### **Procedure When Group is Out of Position**

The Committee or Referee will monitor the pace of play and decide whether a group is out of position. An assessment of whether there were any recent circumstances that affected pace of play such as lost ball, unplayable ball, lengthy ruling, etc. will be made.

The maximum time allocated per stroke is 50 seconds. The timing will start when a player has had sufficient time to reach the ball, determine distance and club selection, and play without interference or distraction.

Timing ceases when a group is back in position and players will be advised accordingly.

#### **Penalty for Breach of Local Rule**

- Penalty for first bad time: Verbal warning
- Penalty for second bad time: One-stroke penalty.
- Penalty for third bad time: General Penalty applied in addition to the penalty for the first breach.
- Penalty for fourth bad time: Disqualification.”

### **Helpful Tips for Improving Pace of Play**

- You should play at a prompt pace throughout the round, including the time needed to prepare for and make each stroke and move to the next shot or hole location.
- Players are encouraged to play “Ready Golf”. If you are closer to the hole than the other players in your group, you may play out of turn if you are ready to make a stroke before the other players and you can do so in a safe way.
- Drop your cart or partner off at golf ball with club/clubs needed then ride to your ball to play your shot. This provides the player with more time to prepare for their strokes.
- It is recommended that you make a stroke in no more than 50 seconds after you can play without interference or distraction. If you can play quicker than the 50 seconds allowed for your stroke, you are encouraged to do so.
- If you believe that your ball may be lost outside of a penalty area or out of bounds, play a provisional ball. This helps save time driving back to where you last played. See Rule 18.3 on how to proceed with a Provisional Ball.
- Return your scorecard as soon as possible after the round is complete. Do not go to your car and unload. The 30- minute pace of play policy is recorded when the scorecard is returned, not when the round is completed.