



## 2024 PACE OF PLAY POLICY – Match Play

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This policy will be strictly enforced at all NJSGA Match Play competitions in 2024. Players are expected to understand this policy prior to competing in a NJSGA competition.

### Section A:

**RULE 5.6 – Unreasonable Delay (5.6a); Prompt Pace of Play (5.6b):** states: 'A player must not unreasonably delay play, either when playing a hole or between two holes. A round of golf is meant to be played at a prompt pace.'

#### **Penalty Schedule:**

If a match is out of position at any time during the round, the player(s)/side(s) will be informed that it is in breach of the pace of play policy. The match will be subsequently monitored by the referee for the match or a timing official who, **if possible**, may also time each individual player/side. Each player/side is subject to penalty when the match is out of position:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Breach of bad time – Warning; Match(s) asked to regain their position.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Breach of bad time – loss of hole
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Breach of bad time – loss of hole
- 4<sup>th</sup> Breach of bad time – Disqualification

#### **Definition of "Out of Position":**

**First Match of the wave:** The first match of a wave is *out of position* if it is behind the allotted time for the holes that have been played.

**Following Matches:** Any following match is *out of position* after completing any hole if it is behind the allotted time for the holes that have been played **AND:**

- a. Reaches a par-3 that is clear of play and all players in the match ahead have played from the teeing area of the next hole
- b. Reaches a par-4 that becomes clear of play before any player makes a stroke from the teeing area
- c. Reaches a par-5 after any player in the match ahead has made a stroke on the putting green

#### **Allotted Time:**

**Allotted times** for each match will be provided by the Committee (typically are indicated on the unofficial score card provided the players). When a match falls behind, **regardless of the reason**, it must regain its position. TIME FOR BALL SEARCHES, RULINGS, AND WALKING DISTANCE IS FACTORED INTO THE ALLOTTED TIME FOR THE FORM OF PLAY AND COURSE BEING PLAYED.

#### **Timing Procedure:**

**Bad Time:** When individual players are being timed by the timing official they are considered to have made a bad time only when the player exceeds **forty (40) seconds, plus an additional 10% timing margin**, to make a stroke. **The timing procedure is:**

- **Other than on the putting green**, the timing of a player's stroke will begin when it is the player's turn to play, and the player can do so without interference or distraction. Time spent determining yardage and other conditions (i.e., wind), as well as walking ahead, will count as time taken for the next stroke.
- **On the putting green**, the timing of a player's stroke will begin after a player has been allowed a reasonable amount of time to mark, lift, clean and replace the ball, repair the putting green, and

remove loose impediments on the line of putt. Time spent surveying the line of play from any angle will count as time taken for the next stroke.

#### **Player Expectations:**

- ◆ Any player who makes minimal or no effort to help the match regain its position or accumulates “bad time(s)” or unduly delays play between shots or holes, will be identified and will be subject to penalty.
- ◆ A player /side concerned about a slow or non-responsive player(s) in their match should first remind them of the pace of play guidelines, and if a reminder does not alleviate the situation, then request the match referee or a timing official (if one is available) to monitor the match in case penalties are incurred and appealed.

## Section B:

#### **Penalty Procedure & Appeals:**

A player or side will be informed that they are SUBJECT to penalty during a match; any penalty will be applied at the hole where the penalty is subsequently assessed. If a penalty is assessed, an appeal will only be considered if:

- a. The Committee delayed the player/or side, or
- b. the player/side was delayed by a circumstance beyond their control or
- c. the player/side was delayed by their opponents (i.e., opponent(s) in the match accrued bad time(s), and/or makes minimal/no effort to help regain the match’s position).

**By Local Rule, any penalties applied under this policy will be applied to the side on the hole where the breach occurred**

#### **NOTE:**

- ◆ The Committee may, at any time and at its’ own discretion, monitor or time a match, side, or individual player(s).
- ◆ Discussion / appeals to the committee regarding Pace of Play breaches during the match are not permitted and may result in further ‘Undue Delay’ penalties.
- ◆ When a match in breach regains its position, but subsequently incurs another breach, the penalty schedule will resume at the point when it incurred its most recent breach. (In other words, breaches remain in effect for the duration of the matches conducted the same day.)

#### **Tips for Avoiding Penalties:**

- Concession of strokes, on or off the putting green, are encouraged.
- In matches involving partners, be realistic when it is appropriate to “pick-up.”
- Plan your shot while walking briskly to your ball, or while others are playing.
- Be ready to play when it is your turn.
- Carry multiple clubs with you in the event you elect to change clubs prior to a stroke.
- Be efficient with pre-shot routine; take only one practice swing.
- Play a provisional ball if you think the original may be lost outside a penalty area or out of bounds.

**We require compliance to all pace of play guidelines. These guidelines are in place for the benefit of all competitors. Questions or requests for clarification regarding this policy should be brought to the NJSGA prior to the beginning of play.**