

## PACE OF PLAY PROGRAM

For those who play in our tournaments will attest, the time it takes to complete play can be excessive, impacting those who play better without delay and generally decreasing the enjoyment of playing golf as a part of our overall lives.

To quote from the USGA - June 5, 2013

"Playing at a better pace is **not** about hurrying up or rushing around the course. It is simply about being more efficient with your valuable time, as well as everyone else's. Adopting this mindset – and not being afraid to share it with your fellow players – will ultimately add enjoyment to your golf experience."

Towards this end, and by approval of the Anaheim Hills Golf Club (AHGC) Tournaments Committee and Championship Golf Services, the AHGC will adopt the following Pace-of-Play program for all of its tournaments. The three tenets of this program – Becoming Informed, Commitment and Accountability and Golf Course Staff Support are described below. Further, it is our hope that our members will continue this practice beyond our tournaments as ambassadors of the club, leading by example wherever we play golf to promote an improved pace of play.

**Become Informed** – It is our hope and belief that once our members understand what they can do to improve both their individual and playing partner's pace of play, that they will embrace these tactics to make the game more enjoyable for all. Tips to improve our pace of play are offered at the end of this document.

### **Commitment and Accountability** –

Effective beginning with our 2017 December Wednesday tournament, the Tournaments Committee will enforce USGA Rule 5.6a, which can be found by [clicking on this link](#).

The lead group must finish their stipulated round within the maximum allotted time established by the committee (this is currently set at 4 hours and 30 minutes maximum). If they finish over the maximum allotted time, each player will be assessed a two-stroke penalty to their score for the final hole.

➤ **Exception:** If the lead group is held up by play that was sent out before them or that began on the opposite tee, they will be exempt from the pace of play penalty if they finish over their allotted time but within 14 minutes of the group ahead of them.

Should any subsequent group finish over the maximum allotted time and more than 14 minutes behind the group ahead of them, each player will be assessed a two-stroke penalty to their score for the final hole.

### **Exemptions from Penalty:**

If a group does not finish within their allotted time due to circumstances beyond their control (such as a ruling or a ball search on the final hole, or any other circumstances which the Tournaments Committee deems to be exceptional) but was otherwise in position during the play of their final hole, the Tournaments Committee may be justified in waiving the penalty. Being in position means to be immediately behind the group in front of you.

Any group that has a slow, deliberate or non-responsive player(s) may report the player(s) to a marshal or the clubhouse staff at any time during the stipulated round and the player(s) will be monitored. If the Tournaments Committee determines that a player or players in the group are the cause of the group failing to maintain pace of play and determines that the other players are playing within the requirements of this policy, those meeting the requirements of this policy may be absolved from penalty.

**THE TOURNAMENTS COMMITTEE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REVIEW ALL PENALTY SITUATIONS.**

**Golf Course Management Staff Support** – The golf course marshals shall encourage groups to play more efficiently who they deem as beginning to fall behind the overall pace of the other players. The marshals' inputs shall be seen as assistance to the club and of this program and shall be shown respect at all times by club members. Failure to comply with this expectation shall be addressed by Championship Golf Services and/or the Tournaments Committee, as appropriate.



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## ***Tips for Improving Pace of Play - From the USGA***

- **Start Smart.**  
Confirm your tee time in advance and make it a point to arrive at the tee early with your golf equipment in order, ready to play. Remember essentials like extra balls, tees, gloves and appropriate clothing for the day's weather conditions.
- **Minimize your time on the tee.**  
On the tee it is usually acceptable for players to "hit when ready." You can also save time by playing a provisional ball ([Rule 27-2](#)) if you think your original ball might be lost or out of bounds.
- **Plan your shot before you get to your ball.**  
Once you are off the tee, think ahead. Determine your yardage and make your club selection before it is your turn to play. Very often, you can do this while others are playing, without disruption. If you take your glove off between shots, have it back on before it is your turn to play. Even a small step like this saves time.
- **Keep your pre-shot routine short.**  
Pick your line of play once and trust yourself. Try to take no more than one practice swing, then set up to the ball and play your shot. Most importantly, be ready to hit when it is your turn. Be efficient after your shot, too. Start moving toward your next shot promptly.
- **Aim to play in 20 seconds.**  
From club selection to pre-shot routine to execution, strive to hit your shot in 20 seconds when it is your turn to play. Help keep play moving at a brisk pace.
- **Develop an eye for distance.**  
You don't have to step off yardage for every shot. If you need to determine precise distance, try to find a yardage marker before you reach your ball, then step off the yardage on the way to your ball. Or, consider investing in an electronic range-finder or global positioning system for golf and use it when permitted by Local Rule. If others you are playing with are not familiar with the course, the Rules permit players to exchange yardage information without penalty.
- **When sharing a cart, use a buddy system.**  
Don't wait in the cart while your cartmate hits and then drive to your ball. Get out and walk to your ball with a few clubs. Be ready to play when it is your turn and then let your cartmate pick you up. Or, drive to your ball after you drop your cartmate off and then pick him or her up after you hit.
- **Be helpful to others in your group.**  
Follow the flight of all tee shots, not just your own. Once in the fairway, help others look for their ball if you already know the location of yours. Volunteer to fill in a divot or rake a bunker for another player if needed. Be ready to attend the flagstick for others.
- **Keep up with the group in front of you.**  
Your correct position on the course is ***immediately behind the group in front of you***, not immediately in front of the group behind you. Arrive at your next shot just before the group in front leaves the area in front of you.
- **Be efficient on the putting green.**  
Mark your ball and lift and clean it when you arrive at the putting green so you will be ready to replace it when it is your turn to play. You can usually line up your putt while others are putting, without disturbing them. Leave your clubs on the side of the putting green closest to the next tee, and leave the green promptly after holing out. Wait until the next tee to record your score.
- **Remember that picking up your ball is permitted by the USGA Handicap System.**  
If not in an individual stroke play competition, it is generally OK to pick up your ball and move on to the next hole if you are "out" of a hole and want to maintain pace of play. This applies in match play and many forms of stroke play, including Stableford and best-ball play.