

MASSACHUSETTS GOLF ASSOCIATION - PACE OF PLAY POLICY

The MGA Executive Committee has established the following **Group Based, Checkpoint** guidelines regarding Pace of Play for all events:

Players will be provided with the Pace of Play Policy on their 1st Tee, and are expected to adhere to the Time Limits as indicated on the Official Scorecard.

In general for most MGA competitions, the Time Limits will be determined based on the following time allowances:

It is Unreasonable for players to take more than:

13 minutes per hole in groups of Two or 15 minutes per hole in groups of Three or Four

TIME LIMITS: GROUPS OF 2

HOLE #	TIME	HOLE #	TIME
1	0:13	10	2:10
2	0:26	11	2:23
3	0:39	12	2:36
4	0:52	13	2:49
5	1:05	14	3:02
6	1:18	15	3:15
7	1:31	16	3:28
8	1:44	17	3:41
9	1:57	18	3:54

TIME LIMITS: GROUPS OF 3 OR 4

HOLE #	TIME	HOLE #	TIME
1	0:15	10	2:30
2	0:30	11	2:45
3	0:45	12	3:00
4	1:00	13	3:15
5	1:15	14	3:30
6	1:30	15	3:45
7	1:45	16	4:00
8	2:00	17	4:15
9	2:15	18	4:30

Time Limits may be adjusted based on factors specific to the golf course being played. Any adjustments will be reflected on the Official Score Card.

Players are responsible for knowing their position on the course relative to their Time Limit. Players should monitor and speak to individuals causing slow play. Players may ask that the group be monitored by an Official without identifying an individual causing slow play. Information obtained by that Official will be considered in applying penalties under this Rule.

USGA Rule 6-7 states that the player shall play without undue delay and in accordance with any pace of play guidelines which may be established by the Committee. Between completion of a hole and playing from the next teeing ground, the player shall not unduly delay play.

DEFINITIONS

First Group – The first group scheduled to begin play. In a two-tee start this includes the first group off each tee used to begin play. In a two-tee start with both morning and afternoon starting times, this also includes the first groups off each tee in the afternoon round.

Subsequent Groups – Any group other than the First Group.

Out of Position, First Groups Only – A group that has not completed play on their 9th or 18th hole within their Time Limit. (Note: In a two tee start, if the First Group reaches a group ahead, the rules for Subsequent Groups apply.)

Out of Position, Subsequent Groups – A group that has not completed play on their 9th or 18th hole within their Time Limit **AND** is more than 15 minutes behind the preceding group.

Time Limit – The time indicated on the Official Scorecard for completion of the 9th or 18th hole. The Time Limit is based on the scheduled Starting Time. If the group is unable to begin play at its scheduled time, the Starter will advise the players of their new Official Starting Time and the Time Limit will be adjusted accordingly. The Official Starting Time will be when the Starter announces the first competitor.

Completed Play – Groups have completed play when all players have holed out and the flagstick has been returned to the hole.

PENALTIES

Groups who are **OUT OF POSITION** after their 9th hole will receive an **OUT OF POSITION WARNING**. The group is liable for a **PENALTY OF TWO STROKES** if they are subsequently **OUT OF POSITION** after their 18th Hole.

Groups who are in position after their 9th Hole, but are subsequently **OUT OF POSITION** after their 18th Hole are liable for a **PENALTY OF ONE STROKE**.

Penalties will be assessed after the round at the Scoring Area.

Appeal Process: The Appeals Committee will consist of up to three officials, including the Official(s)-in-Charge. The player must appeal the penalty at the Scoring Area before the score card is signed and returned. **Lost balls, bad play, and time waiting for a ruling are not viable excuses for slow play.** In order for an appeal to be considered, there must have been circumstances or situations beyond the player's control. Information from other Rules Officials assigned to the event may be considered in reviewing the appeal and in determining penalties. The final decision rests with the Official(s)-in-Charge.