

August Message from the President

I am a golf “junkie.” I tape golf and watch it on TV all the time. I really could not live without the golf channel! The Olympics were awesome and so was the recent USGA men’s and women’s amateur competitions. I was glued to the TV, it was inspiring watching all those talented golfers hit great and sometimes not so great golf shots.

A key problem that keeps getting brought up on TV about golf is how long it takes to play 18 holes. A round of golf should take about 4 hours. This means that pace of play is something we all need to be aware of every time we go out to play a round of golf. Slow play was a problem that was seen at the Olympics and in the women’s amateur competitions this year. Did you know that you can be penalized for slow play? In fact, a female golfer was penalized for slow play at the Olympics.

Do you know how long a golfer has to take their shot once they get to their golf ball? The answer is 40 seconds.

As an amateur golfer, you probably have not experienced getting penalized for slow play, have you? But I bet you have had a ranger tell you to pick up your pace of play. So, what can you do? First, you need to find out if you are taking too much time to hit your ball. You can do this by asking one of the people in your group to time you (use the stop watch on your phone). If you are slow, you need to find ways to speed up your play. Are you standing over the shot too long or taking too many practice swings before hitting the ball?

Also, if your group is not keeping up with the group ahead of you, your group needs to move more quickly and catch up. Here are things everyone can do to pick up pace of play:

- Play ready golf once you get to the tee. Get your club and go hit the ball! Forget honors.
- Once you hit your shot, get in the cart with your golf club (in hand) and put your club away while your cart partner is hitting their ball. This also works when you are coming off the green and going to the next tee box.
- Write down your golf scores once you get to the next tee box.
- Be kind but tell someone if they are playing too slowly.
- Do not be offended if you are told you are playing too slowly.

I hope this helps everyone become aware of their personal pace of play and helps our group move faster on the golf course.