

Bryan Park Senior Men's Golf Association

Slow Play Policy

It has been brought to the attention of the BPSMGA Board that we have lost members over the last year and are on the verge of losing more members as a result of very long rounds during our tournaments each month. While it can be expected to take a little longer to play a tournament round, many of our rounds are exceeding 5 hours and 30 minutes and fast approaching 6 hours. In an attempt to increase the rate of play during our tournaments, we have developed the following Slow Play Policy.

- The board has decided that the average time for a round of golf in a Senior Tournament should be 4 hours and 30 minutes on the Players course and 4 hours and 45 minutes on the Champions course. Therefore, we will use these times as our basis for the implementation of this policy. ***The time limit starts with the official time for the start of the tournament and ends when you turn your card into the tournament director or other board member at the end of play. The time you take to total scores and sign cards is included in your time limit.***
- The standard times may be adjusted as a result of carts on path or other weather-related situations, but no group should ever be 30 minutes behind the group in front of them.
- The same standards will be applied to all tournaments whether shot gun start or tee times.
- All tournament participants should arrive at the course, check in at the pro shop, warm up on the range and be ready to play, 30 minutes before the official start time of the tournament.
- For a shot gun start the birthday drawing, raffle drawing, discussion of the rules for the tournament, and other announcements will start 30 minutes before the start of play.
- For a shot gun start, once all pre-tournament activities are completed, we will send everyone to their hole 15 minutes before the official start time
- It is the responsibility of each player in the group to monitor each other and encourage everyone in the group to keep up with the group in front of them. If there is a player in your group that is holding everyone else up, you may report them anonymously to a board representative at any time during or after the round.
- Once you have completed your round of play, total the scores on your cards, sign your cards, and take the cards directly to the tournament director or his representative located at the score board behind the clubhouse. (Scorecard collection may be moved to the grill area if there is a change in the weather that warrants a move.)
Please remember the time you take to total scores and sign cards will be included in the time it takes you to complete your round. If you take your clubs to your car before turning in your cards, that time will be included in your time of play.
- Your completion time will be written on the tee sheet and the scorecard.
- If your group finishes more than 30 minutes behind the group in front of you, a 2-stroke penalty will be assessed to the group. If we can establish that there were particular individuals in the group who held up play, those persons will be the only ones assessed the slow play penalty.
- If you have been penalized previously for slow play and this is your second offense during the tournament year, you will be disqualified from this particular tournament.
- Your scorecard will then be turned over to the scorer to be recorded on the score board.

Examples of when you may or may not be penalized:

1 – A tournament pairing starts on hole 1 as 1A and a group starts right behind them as group 1B. Group 1A plays extremely fast and finished their round in 3 hours and 55 minutes. Group 1B completes their round in 4 hours and 40 minutes. Even though they are more than 30 minutes behind the group in front of them, they will not be penalized because they are not more than 30 minutes behind the standard time.

2 – A tournament pairing of four players starts on hole 6 and completes their round in 4 hour and 30 minutes. The group behind them starting on hole number 5 completed their round in 5 hours and five minutes, which means they exceeded the 30-minute time difference between groups. The group that started on hole number 5 will be penalized 2 strokes if it is their first offense, or an individual golfer may be disqualified if it is the second time, they have been in a group violating the slow play policy.

3 – Your group finishes 40 minutes behind the group in front of you, but you have a player in your group that has repeatedly been urged to speed up the entire day but has not done so. If the group can agree on the guilty party, then only he will be penalized for slow play.

SUGGESTION TO THINK ABOUT AND DISCUSS

If a player is penalized for slow play in a tournament, but then plays three consecutive tournaments without a slow play volitation, we will wipe the slate clean and allow them to start over. If they are then penalized again, they will be penalized but not be able to play their way back into good standing that year.

How to Speed up Play

- ❖ Be prepared when you get to the first tee. Don't be looking for balls, tees, etc.
- ❖ Watch each other's shots and help mark them if they go astray.
- ❖ Fill in divots and rake bunkers for each other.
- ❖ Plan you shot while approaching your ball. Especially on the green. Look at your putt as you walk to mark your ball so that you are ready to putt when it is your turn. **The person who is ready to putt is away!**
- ❖ While the first person is hitting their approach shot from the fairway, all other golfers should be making club selections and be ready to hit when it is their turn. **Once again, the person who is ready to play is away. Just say "I will go" and hit your shot.**
- ❖ Play ready golf on tee boxes.
- ❖ Mark your scorecard at the next tee while others are teeing off.
- ❖ Most importantly, encourage others to pick up the pace if needed.