

MGA Player Pace-of-Play Policy

The Men's Golf Association provides members with a combination of golf, social, and educational activities. The MGA Board is committed to providing opportunities to play in MGA managed events and group play. Important aspects of that commitment are obtaining and organizing tee times, managing the games played, as well as maximizing the enjoyment of golf on the Plantation Golf Club course. The MGA desires to support every member in his efforts to participate in MGA playing activities as a player.

There are many positive aspects to playing golf on the Plantation Golf Club course. However, there are also negatives that can reduce the enjoyment. The most significant negative is slow play. Our full Club membership overwhelms the number of eight-minute tee times available, and reduced daylight hours during the winter season further reduces the total rounds of golf available to the membership. We understand that full and tight tee sheets can contribute to slow play, but we also recognize there is not a lot we can do about eliminating those specific causes. However, there are other causes of slow play, and we believe together we can mitigate most of them by being attentive to them and by supporting each other in their mitigation/remedy.

The official pro shop position on expected time for playing the Plantation Golf Club course is exactly four hours. In order to support each other in achieving that playing time, every member should work towards maintaining a good pace of play and use appropriate remedies when slow play exists. In that regard, the MGA Board has established this MGA Player Pace of Play Policy to assist the membership in preventing avoidable slow play and remedying it when observed.

Causes of slow play may include:

A player is distracted by using a personal device, talking to another player, or watching activity somewhere else on the course when they should be preparing for their next shot.

A player is slow in locating his ball, determining the distance of his next shot, and/or selecting a club to play his next shot.

A player is injured or is in a state of recovery from an injury.

A player's strength or physical mobility is limited due to sickness, age, or physical handicap.

A player walks/moves very slowly to and from the tee or the green or has difficulty entering or leaving a hazard.

A player is scoring very high numbers on multiples holes due to physical limitations.

Every player has a responsibility to the rest of the field to recognize when he is not maintaining the proper pace of play, and he is likewise responsible for remedying his own slow play. If a player is unaware of his slow play or his lack of remedying it, he should embrace help from others when they offer their observations and recommendations that he pick up the pace or exercise a remedy. If a player is not keeping a good pace of play and is not aware of his slow play, another person is encouraged to assist that player by pointing out his slow play. The other person may be the ranger, a member or members in his playing group, or members in the playing group following his group.

Once recognizing he is not playing at an appropriate pace of play or is notified of his slow play, the player has the responsibility to pick up the pace and remedy his slow play. If the player is unable to remedy his slow play going forward, by picking up the pace and maintaining a good pace for the rest of the round, the player has a responsibility to consider the options described below:

Options for players who are unable to maintain an appropriate pace of play:

- 1) Play forward one or more set(s) of tees and determine if that solves the slow play problem.
- 2) If moving forward does not allow the player to maintain a good pace of play, the player is encouraged to adopt the “blind draw partnering program.”

The “blind draw partnering program” provides for the player to continue to be a member of his team, pay the entry fee, and realize participation in any winnings the team may receive. A blind draw player’s score will be used to determine the team score for the game. In using the “blind draw partnering program” the player can continue to join the group on the course and play intermittent shots/putts of his choice, so long as a good pace of play is maintained. The player will reduce the number of intermittent shots until an appropriate pace of play is achieved.

A player adopting the “blind draw partnering program” must notify the game manager at least 24 hours before the start of the game. Said player’s scores should still be recorded in Golf Genius for any holes which the player completed and legitimately scored. The player’s score may be posted to GHIN based upon only the holes fully completed and entered in Golf Genius.

If neither Option 1 nor Option 2 allows the player to satisfy the requirement that he maintain an appropriate pace of play, the player will not be allowed to play in MGA managed games. The MGA Board is always willing to meet individually with a player to discuss any specific issues related to the player and the MGA Player Pace of Play Policy.