

Albuquerque Seniors Golf Association Pace of Play Guidelines

In The USGA Rules of Golf, Rule 6-7, Undue Delay; Slow Play states in part:
“The player shall play without delay and in accordance with any pace of play guidelines which may be laid down by the Committee.”

Following the spirit of Rule 6-7, we prefer to encourage a faster pace of play rather than subjecting players to slow play penalties. If our guidelines are followed you can avoid a slow play penalty and make everyone's tournament golfing experience more enjoyable. For violations of this policy, the SMGA committee may issue the following penalties. First offense is a warning, second offense is a one stroke penalty and any subsequent offense may result in disqualification from the event.

All players are expected to complete their round in roughly 4 hours and 30 minutes (2 hours and 15 minutes per nine). If it is determined that a group is playing at a pace exceeding 5 hours and it is out of position (one or more holes open in front of them), the entire group may be subject to penalty in accordance with Rule 6-7.

Guidelines for Faster Play

- 1) Always keep up with the group in front of you. If you fall behind, catch up.
- 2) The Committee endorses ready golf. Forget who has the honors. Hit when ready and it is safe.
- 3) Calculate yardage, wind speed, speed of putts, etc. while others are playing their shots.
- 4) We all use carts. Always drop off your cart partner with their clubs and proceed to your balling.
- 5) Always take more than one club and your putter to chip or putt around greens.
- 6) Study your shot while others are putting.
- 6) Continuous putting is encouraged. Pick up gimmies. No practice putts.
- 7) The player closest to the flag should always tend the flag and the first person finished putting should be ready to replace the flag.
- 8) Do not park carts in front or side of the green
- 9) Always leave carts and extra clubs behind the green and towards the next tee.
- 10) Always record scores at the next tee, not on or beside the green just played.
- 11) **Get in the cart with your club after you hit.** Do not make players wait while you clean your club / Do not park carts in front or side of the green replace head covers and put away your clubs. You can clean your club and replace head covers while driving to the next ball or at the next tee box.
- 12) Always play a provisional ball if you think your ball is lost outside of a hazard.
- 13) The USGA allows only 5 minutes to search for a lost ball. We encourage 3 minutes or less.
- 14) Use of all cellular telephones and pagers is strongly discouraged except for emergencies.