

TOWNSVILLE GOLF CLUB INCORPORATED



PACE OF PLAY POLICY

Implemented March 2025

1. With the revision to the rules of golf back in 2019, it has become clear to The Townsville Club Golf Committee that the pace of play is at the forefront of many of the new / revised rule changes. Pace of Play is an ongoing concern for many of our members and we need to find a balance point between an unenjoyable slow play day and an unpleasant overly rushed round of golf.
2. Pace of play is something Golf as a whole and all clubs need to focus on, and it is the responsibility of each member (not just the low marker) on every round to assist fellow members on this issue.
3. Our Club encourages the playing of 'ready golf' to support the pace of play, that is, provided it is safe to do so, a player may play their ball when ready even if to do so results in the player playing 'out of turn'.
4. Players should endeavour to play at a good pace. It is a group's responsibility to keep up with the group in front. A round of golf should take no longer than 4 hours and 15 minutes. Players need to be aware of their group's position on the course, and how they are impacting on the pace of play of other groups. Generally, if a group keeps up with the group in front, the players in that group will rarely be accused of slow play.
5. Players should always be looking forward to ensure that they are maintaining a good position in relation to the group in front.
6. Players should be ready to play as soon as it is their turn to play. Members should be able to prepare for and play their shot within 40 seconds.
7. The following suggestions should be adopted by members preparing for their next shot whilst other players are playing, being mindful of not distracting the other player:
 - a) Walk efficiently to the ball putting their glove on in the process
 - b) Assess the shot, including any calculation of distance the player wants to make, or line up the putt, and
 - c) Make a decision on club selection
 - d) Ensure your pre-shot routine is efficient, limiting practice swings to not more than 2 swings
 - e) It is recommended that players sharing a golf cart determine the most efficient manner in which to play, with the player to play second to either walk or drive to their ball whilst the other player is preparing to play.
8. When playing on or near the putting green, members and/or their guests should leave their bags or carts in a position that will enable quick movement off the green and towards the next tee. If a member is in a Motorised Cart, we encourage the parking of the carts to be on designated cart paths away from the Green that then allows easy exit access to the next teeing ground.

9. We all appreciate the need to study and prepare for your putt, a lot of that can be done while others are putting not just when it is your turn. Again, be respectful of etiquette but time can be saved on the greens. Please note the 2019 rules now allow for putting with the flag in, so you don't have to wait for someone in your group to tend the flag whilst you putt.

10. When the play of a hole is completed, players should immediately leave the putting green. Players should not remain on the green or green surrounds to mark scorecards but to do so in transit to or at the next tee box.

11. If a player believes their ball may be lost or is out of bounds, to save time, they should play a provisional ball. Players searching for a ball have a time limit of 3 minutes. If it is apparent that the ball will not easily be found and you choose to take the whole 3 minutes consider allowing the group behind to play through, the first group should not continue play until that group which was called through has passed and is out of range.

12. Mi Club enables us to analyse the time taken to play a round of golf. The Golf Committee will monitor this information and use a warning system and sanctions as follows:

a) Yellow Flags:

- 1) If a group takes longer than 4 hours and 15 minutes to complete their round AND is 13 or more minutes slower than the group ahead.
- 2) If your group finishes 25 or more minutes slower than the group ahead (regardless of the round time).

b) Pace of Play warning:

- 1) If you receive three Yellow flags within a 4 month golfing window, you will receive a Pace of Play warning from the Club Captain.
- 2) If you receive 3 notifications from the Club Captain in relation to your slow play, you may be moved to time slots at the tail of the AM or PM field which may be Reserved for Slow Play for a period of one month or until such time as improvements in pace of play are made.
- 3) Members are also reminded that arguing or abusing Golf Committee members or designated Speed of Play Marshalls will not be tolerated and the Golf Committee will be taking a proactive stance and will issue sanctions if needed.

13. Respectfully assisting and reminding each other of the need to play at a pace that keeps up with the group in front and not keeping ahead of the group behind, will go a long way to alleviating our slow play issues.