

Pace of Play

How Can You Prevent Slow Play? Here are some suggestions as to how to improve pace of play.

1. Play from the tee that matches your ability and/or handicap.
2. Play **Ready Golf**¹; forego *Honors*, hit when ready and safe.
3. Use both the groups ahead and behind you to gauge your pace of play. If the group that teed off directly in front of you is pulling away - putting a full hole's distance between them and your group - you need to speed up. If there's no one in front of you holding you up, but you are holding up those behind you, either speed up or allow the trailing group to play through. It is your responsibility to keep pace with the players in front of you.
4. Take only one practice swing prior to your shot; be efficient with pre-shot routines.
5. Plan your shot while walking to your ball or while others are playing.
6. When using a cart on a cart-path-only day, be sure to take a couple of clubs with you when you walk from the cart to your ball. This way, you won't have to return to the cart if you discover you didn't bring the appropriate club.
7. Carry a few extra tees, ball marks and a spare ball in your pockets so you don't have to return to your golf bag to retrieve them, should you find yourself in need of one.
8. Play a provisional ball if you think the original may be lost.
9. Limit search for lost balls to three minutes.
10. Pick up your ball after reaching *Double Par* on any hole.
11. On the green, begin lining up your putt and reading the break as soon as you reach the green. When it's your turn to putt, be prepared to step right up and take the stroke. Take only one look at the line of play/putt from behind the ball.
12. Record scores when off the green and on the next tee.
13. At the turn (between holes 9 and 10) at the clubhouse, if you are buying food select something quick, i.e. a hotdog, etc. and then get back in your cart and eat your lunch on the way to the 10th hole.
14. Practice **Continuous Putting**².

Definitions:

¹**Ready Golf:** Ready Golf means THINKING AHEAD so that you're READY TO PLAY when it is YOUR TURN. Ready Golf applies EVERYWHERE on the golf course -- on the tees, on the fairways and on the greens. All players should GO TO THEIR BALLS as soon as possible. The only time players should wait for other players is if the first player's ball is in front of the other players' in such a way that the other players could be hit by the first player's shot. In particular, all players should NEVER stop in a group unless their balls are all in the same location. The only time players should stop in a group and wait for a player to hit is if the line of flight of that player's shot prevents the other players from going to their own balls.

²**Continuous Putting:** The continuous putting "rule" isn't really official. It is not a "rule". It is a convention that works in stroke play because Rule 10-2b does not provide for a penalty should a player stroke out of turn! In practical terms, this means that a player who putts and fails to **hole out** may opt to continue putting until holing out.