



“SLOW PLAY” or “PACE OF PLAY”

1. **USGA Rule 6-7. Undue Delay; Slow Play states:** “The player must play without undue delay and in accordance with any pace of play guidelines that the Committee may establish. Between completion of a hole and playing from the next teeing ground, the player must not unduly delay play.”
2. First and foremost, SLOW PLAY on the course is one of the MOST discussed and abused rules in amateur golf. We don’t want to be the focal point of one of these discussions at the hosting Club after we leave so we need to do our best to maintain the course PACE OF PLAY. To ensure that our ASGA group leaves the hosting Club in good reputation as it relates to “PACE OF PLAY,” the following are recommendations are provided to increase good will at all of our hosting Golf Clubs:
 - a. **“ONE STROKE RULE:”** If you remember to stay within 1 stroke of the group in front of you, 99% of the time, your PACE OF PLAY will be adequate. An open hole in front of your group means that your group is “out of position.” When this occurs, your group may be asked by the Course Ranger to skip a hole in order to regain your position. Do not take offense, just pick up your balls and move to the next hole.
 - b. **TIME:** Regardless of the number of golfers in your group you are expected to play each hole in about 3.5 minutes per person, or for a foursome, within 15 minutes (round of 4.5 hours). Some holes will be less and some may be longer. If you plan to have a break after the 9th hole, then you need to lessen your time at each hole to ensure that you maintain your group’s correct position.
 - c. **ASGA LEAD GROUP:** As the first group to tee off in an ASGA event, it is extremely important that your group “set pace of play.” Stay up with the group in front or limit yourself to an average of 15 minutes or less for each hole (or 3.5 minutes per person when the group is 3 or less); otherwise, you will put, not just your group “out of position,” but ALL the players following your group as well.
 - d. **TEEING OFF:** When you arrive at the tee box, you should already have your glove on, tee in hand and ready to grab your club. If no one is on the tee, proceed to the tee or wait for your turn. Play READY GOLF.
 - e. **PROVISIONAL BALL:** If you are reasonably sure that your ball in trouble (LOST or OUT OF BOUNDS), hit a second ball referred to as a provisional ball. You MUST declare you are hitting a PROVISIONAL BALL; else, the new ball is immediately in play. Don’t be bashful, just do it – it is the correct way to handle this situation. ☺
 - f. **LOST or OUT OF BOUNDS:** Only spend a couple of minutes (max of 5 minutes) searching for your ball and then make your declaration (ball is lost or is out of bound). At this time, you MUST continue play with your PROVISIONAL BALL or you MUST return to the location from where you hit the LOST or OUT OF BOUNDS ball and drop a ball to put into play. Both situations incur a one stroke penalty.

- g. **READY GOLF:** Always be ready to play your ball. Do not wait to drive or be driven to your ball if you are next to play. Get to your ball as quickly as possible without interference with a fellow golfer. If no one is ready, then ready your position and take your stroke. You only need to do this whenever your group is experiencing SLOW PLAY and are falling behind.
- h. **CART POSITION:** Never pull your cart in front of the other golfers in the fairway. At the Green, position your cart parallel to the flag or to the rear of the hole so that your group is ready for a swift exit from the finished hole.
- i. **EQUIPMENT:** If walking to the green, be sure and carry necessary club(s) with you to your ball as you may not have the intended results you expect. ☹
- j. **MAXIMUM STROKES FOR JAX ASGH:** During stroke play and for those who are posting scores for USGA HDCP, play to your STROKE EQUITY; otherwise, play to DOUBLE BOGEY. If you are in slow play, you should pick up your ball as soon as it becomes evident that you will reach YOUR maximum strokes (stroke equity or double bogey) for the hole.
- k. **MARKING SCORES:** After playing the hole (play completed at that hole), immediately proceed to the next hole. Do not mark your score until you reach the next tee. If a group is behind you waiting to tee off, do not bag your clubs until you reach the next tee.

NOTE: Generally, these recommendations are in force at all time, but whenever your group is waiting on the group in front of them, feel free to “relax” your PACE OF PLAY; however, mark your score at MAXIMUM STRTOKES (referenced in sub para j. above) even if time permits you play out the hole. Above all, let your common sense prevail and have a great time.