



# NORTHERN NEVADA GOLF ASSOCIATION PACE OF PLAY POLICY



## OVERVIEW

---

All scorecards will have printed on them the **MAXIMUM** allowable time to complete the play of each hole based on a group's scheduled starting time and starting hole. These times are established based on the difficulty of the course and the ability of the field. They include time to search for balls and deal with other common occurrences encountered during play. If a group falls behind, they must play efficient golf and make up the lost time.

**A normal speed of play should result in completing play FASTER than the time indicated on the scorecard.**

As a reminder, In stroke play format the USGA Rules of Golf allow for and encourage playing "**READY GOLF**". The NNGA additionally asks for and encourages all golfers to play "**READY GOLF**" in order to help with pace of play.

## PACE OF PLAY GUIDELINES

---

**LEAD GROUP(S):** The lead group(s) must finish each hole within the maximum allowable time established by the Committee. If they finish over their maximum allowable time, each player may be assessed a **penalty** to their score for the hole just finished based on the penalty structure laid out below.

**Exception:** If the lead group is delayed by a group that was sent out before them or that began on the opposite starting hole, they will be exempt from penalty if they finish over the maximum allowable time but within **14** minutes of the group in front of them.

**FOLLOWING GROUPS:** Any subsequent group must finish each hole within the maximum allowable time established by the Committee. If they finish over the maximum allowable time, they must finish within **14** minutes of the group in front of them. If they finish over the maximum allowable time and more than **14** minutes behind the group in front of them, each player may be assessed a **penalty** to their score for the hole just finished based on the penalty structure laid out below.

**WHO THE PENALTY APPLIES TO:** It is the **PLAYERS' RESPONSIBILITY** to know their **GROUP'S POSITION** relative to the published Pace of Play and to ensure they play within the published limits. Failure to play within the Pace of Play guidelines may result in a **penalty** to the score of **ALL PLAYERS IN THE GROUP** for the hole just finished based on the penalty structure laid out below. The Committee may decide to only assess any applicable penalty strokes to an individual player based on circumstances observed.

**EXEMPTION FROM PENALTY:** If a group does not finish within their maximum allowable time or within **14** minutes of the preceding group due to circumstances which the Committee deems to be **exceptional**, the Committee **MAY** determine not to assess a penalty. Any time spent on rulings or extensive ball searches will be taken into consideration when determining and possible penalties.

**GROUPS MAY BE MONITORED:** If a player believes that the group is being delayed by the play of a specific player(s) in the group the player should first address the issue with the player(s) involved. If this discussion was ineffective, the player may request a Tournament Official on the course to have the group monitored. The Committee may also monitor a group that is failing to play within the maximum allowable time, whether or not a player has requested it. If the Committee identifies that a player(s) in the group is the cause of the group failing to maintain pace of play and determines other players are playing within the requirements of this policy, those meeting the requirements of this policy may be absolved from penalty while others may not.

**UNREASONABLE DELAY:** If the Committee determines that a group or player(s) in a group are failing to play in accordance with the established guidelines severely disrupting the play of other players or following groups, the player(s) or group may be subject to penalty for unreasonable delay. Penalties for unreasonable delay are independent of penalties issued under the above pace of play policy (see Rule 5.6a).

**PENALTY STRUCTURE:** We will use the following penalty structure for pace of play violations:

- Penalty for first breach: **Players will receive a warning.**
- Penalty for second breach: **general penalty.**
- Penalty for third breach: **general penalty.**
- Penalty for fourth breach: **disqualification.**

During scoring after the round any discussions about pace of play and the possibility of penalties may be discussed.

**The NNGA Committee reserves the right to review all penalty situations.**