

ORGANIZED 1946

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State Golf Championships

PACE OF PLAY MEMORANDUM TO PLAYERS

“Out of Position” Defined

NOTE: A group of two shall have the same pace requirement as a group of three. A group of three shall have the same pace requirement as a group of four.

The first group to start will be considered out of position if, at any time during the round, the group is behind the relevant pace schedule. Any subsequent group will be considered out of position if it (a) is taking more than the allotted time to play **and** (b) reaches a par-3 hole that is clear of all play and all players in the preceding group have played their strokes from the teeing ground of the next hole; reaches a par-4 or par-5 hole which is not clear of play but which becomes clear of all play before all players in the group have played their strokes from the teeing ground; or reaches a par-4 or par-5 hole which is clear of play.

NOTE: The MPSSAA State Golf Committee reserves the right to time a group whenever the Committee deems the group to be out of position. Players should also be aware that under USGA Rule 6-7 the Committee may assess a penalty to a player in a group which is out of position if that player makes no effort to help the player’s group get back into position, e.g., such as when a player unduly delays play between shots.

Warnings

Players in a group which is out of position may be timed. When possible, Rules Officials will instruct the players in a group if the group is lagging behind but not yet out of position. Rules Officials will advise a group if it is being timed.

Timing and Penalties

A player is permitted a maximum of **40 seconds** to play a stroke, **and an extra 10 seconds** (for a total of 50 seconds) will be permitted for the first player to play.

The timing of a player’s stroke will begin when he has had a reasonable opportunity to reach his ball, it is his turn to play and he can play without interference or distraction. On the putting green, timing will begin after a player has been allowed a reasonable amount of time to mark, lift, clean and replace his ball, repair his ball mark and other ball marks on his line of putt, and remove loose impediments on his line of putt. **The player is expected to play a stroke within 40 seconds.** Time spent walking forward or backward for determining yardages and time spent looking at the line of putt from beyond the hole and/or behind the ball will count as part of the time taken for the next stroke.

If a group is being timed, any player who takes more than 40 seconds to play a stroke is subject to the following penalties: **First offense: warning; second offense: one stroke; third offense: two strokes; and fourth offense: disqualification.**

Note: If a group being timed regains its proper position, any previous bad times will be carried over for the remainder of the round in the event that the group requires additional timing.

NOTE: If a ruling or other uncontrollable delay causes a group to lose its position, the group is expected to regain its position within a reasonable time.

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