Local Rules & Terms of the Competition

CGA Pace of Play Policy

Effective January 2026

CGA Pace of Play Policy for CGA Championships & Qualifiers (Model Local Rule K-2)

Rule 5.6 states, in part: "The player shall play without unreasonable delay in accordance with any pace of play guidelines which may be laid down by The Committee," and thereafter prescribes penalties for slow play. In order to prevent any such penalty, we suggest that you review carefully the following guidelines:

Pace of play regulations are stated on the championship/qualifier local rules sheet. Specific pace of play guidelines are denoted on the player's scorecard.

In general, competitors in a group are subject to being timed at any time but specifically when the group is deemed to be out of position and over the allotted pace of play guidelines.

Definition of "Out of Position"

The first group (each side; both morning and afternoon "waves") to start will be considered out of position if, at any time during the round, the group is behind the allocated pace of play time as detailed on the player's scorecard and/or the addendum to the rules of play sheet.

Any subsequent group will be considered out of position if it is (a) behind the pace of play guidelines and (b) reaches a par-3 hole that is clear of all play and all players in the preceding group have played from the next teeing ground, or reaches a par-4 or par-5 hole and all players have not made a stroke from the next teeing ground before the hole is open and free of play. Both (a) and (b) must apply for a group to be out of position.

Group Out of Position and Timing

If a group/match is out of position, a CGA Referee will monitor it. A group will be notified when they are being timed. **Note**: A group that is out of position at any time may be asked to close the gap regardless of pace of play guidelines.

*The timing of a player's stroke will begin when they have had **reasonable** opportunity to reach their ball, it is their turn to play, and they can play without interference or distraction.*

Except on the putting green, if a player has reached their ball, it is their turn to play, and there are no distractions, timing will begin after they have had **reasonable** time to select their club. Time spent walking backward or forward for determining yardages will count as part of the time taken for the next stroke.

On the putting green, timing will begin after a player has been allowed a **reasonable** amount of time to lift, clean, and replace their ball, repair ball marks and other damage and remove loose impediments on the line of play. Time spent looking at the line from beyond the hole and/or behind the ball will count as part of the time taken for the next stroke.

Pace of Play Penalties

The following are the penalties, in sequence, for any player in a group/match being timed who takes more than **40 seconds** to play a stroke after timing of the player's stroke begins. Any player that is assessed a bad time will be notified as soon as practicable of the warning or penalty. A warning is any notice given to a competitor regarding pace of play and having a bad time over 40 seconds:

- **One bad time:** Verbal Warning
- **A second bad time:** One-stroke penalty in stroke play or match play
- **A third bad time:** General Penalty
- **A fourth bad time:** Disqualification

NOTE: If a group in question regains its proper position but later requires additional monitoring or timing during that round, any previous bad times will carry over and the penalty structure will remain intact.

Penalties are applied individually, but more than one competitor in a group may be penalized. Bad times will carry over throughout the entire competition when more than one round.

Rulings or Other Incidents

If a ruling or some other legitimate delay occurs which causes the group in question to lose its position, that group is expected to regain its position within a reasonable time.