

# • BRIGHTON LAKES •

## RECREATION & GOLF CLUB

### **Pace of Play Policy**

#### **The Benefits of Improved Pace of Play**

Research shows that a clear majority of golfers would enjoy the sport more if it took less time to play; there are very few players who enjoy playing slowly or having to wait to play shots on a regular basis during the round. So, purely from the perspective of increasing player enjoyment, there is a benefit to be derived from improved pace of play

It is safe to assume that players are more likely to want to play a course again or recommend a course to others if their experience did not involve an overly long round or excessive waiting time. Positive testimony alone is likely to reap benefits for facilities, members and visitors where pace of play is well managed and respected by all.

#### **Being Aware of Position on the Course**

Players need to be aware of their group's position on the course, and how they are impacting on the pace of play of other groups. The basic advice in this regard is that if a group keeps up with the group in front, the players in that group will rarely be accused of slow play. Players should always be looking forward to ensure they are maintaining a good position in relation to the group in front, for example, making sure that they do not have an empty par 4 or par 5 hole between them and the group directly in front.

If ground has been lost on the group in front, then ALL of the players in the group should take responsibility for making up that ground as quickly as possible. It is inevitable that there will be holes that take longer to play than would normally be the case, either due to bad play or other delay, but the key is for all the players in that group to ensure that the group gets back into position promptly. The self-assessed pace of play control system can assist in ensuring that players take responsibility for making up lost ground.

### **Being Ready to Play**

The main criticism levelled against slow players in recent pace of play surveys was that such players were not ready to play when it was their turn.

Being ready to play should be very easy. While taking care not to distract other players or compromise safety, a player should undertake the following **while waiting for others to play:**

- Walk efficiently and as quickly as you are able to your ball ;
- Assess the shot, including any calculation of distance required for the shot, or line up the putt, and
- Make a decision on club selection

It is even more important that the first person in a group to play carries out these tasks promptly. Considerable time will be saved during the course of a round if players execute these simple activities efficiently and non-intrusively while others are playing. The frustration occurs when a player stands idle watching others in the group playing and only when it is their turn do they begin to prepare for the shot.

This policy has been established in accordance with the rules of Golf (Rule 5.6b) and is underpinned by the following:

- a) All players are responsible for the pace of play of their group ;
- b) All players **must keep up with the group in front ;**
- c) Apply '**Ready Golf**' principles: if it can be done safely play when ready, even if the player is closer to the hole. On the tee, shorter hitters play first when it is safe to do so ;
- d) All players are required to be on the 1<sup>st</sup> tee and ready to play 5 minutes prior to your allocated tee time
- e) **2 hours and 10 minutes** is the desired **maximum time** for a group to complete 9 holes
- f) **If you are in the first 6 groups of the day, please ensure you play in 3 hours and 55 minutes or less**

2. If a group falls behind more than one hole behind the group directly in front and **fails to recover their place in the field or their completed round time exceeds 4 hours 30 minutes** the following consequences may apply as directed by the Match Committee:
  - a) On the first occasion each player will be sent an email or letter advising the player of his or her first official warning for slow play and issuing of a yellow card.
  - b) On the second occasion in an **eight week period** from the first infraction the player/s will be issued with a red card and restricted to booking into either of the last two tee times of the field for the following month of competition.
  - c. Repeated issuing of red cards to the same member may result in further action

### **Course Marshalls**

#### **Objectives**

1. To assist all golfers around the golf course safely and within the timescale administered by the Match and Greens Committee
2. To enable all golfers to enjoy the experience of playing the course and leaving them with a desire to return.

**Please respect their recommendations and observations should they interact with you or your group whilst on Course.**

**Any abuse, foul language or threatening behaviour directed towards a Course Marshall or Pro Shop team member at any time will be met with zero tolerance by the Management and Board of Directors of Brighton Lakes RGC.**

Ian Lancaster

Club Captain