

GROUP PACE OF PLAY POLICY



The Rules of Golf state that a player must not unreasonably delay play when playing a hole or between two holes (Rule 5.6a). Rule 5.6b(3) states, in part: “To encourage and enforce prompt pace of play, the Committee should adopt a Local rule setting a Pace of Play Policy. This Policy may set a maximum time to complete a round, a hole or series of holes and a stroke, and it may set penalties for not following the Policy.” In accordance with Rule 5.6b(3), Golf Québec has adopted the following Pace of Play Policy.

Allotted Time

Each group is allotted a specific amount of time to complete a group of holes and the stipulated round at a pace in accordance with the applicable course’s Pace of Play Time Chart. A Pace of Play Time Chart will be established at each course for groups of two players or three players. When a group falls out of position, regardless of the reason, it must regain its position. Time for ball searches, rulings, and walking time between holes is included in the allotted time.

Checkpoints:

Holes #3, #7, #12 and #16 are the designated checkpoint holes. Play of a checkpoint hole is deemed completed when all players in the group have completed play of the hole and the last player’s ball is holed. Golf Québec reserves the right to adjust control points according to course configuration.

Note: If a group or player is penalized, the penalty will be applied to the checkpoint hole where the breach occurred.

Definition of “Out of Position”

First Group: The first group (off the 1st and 10th holes, both morning and afternoon) to start will be considered out of position if, at any time during the round, they exceed the time allotted to complete a checkpoint hole, as detailed on the applicable course’s Pace of Play Time Chart. This includes a first group after a Starter’s Time.

Note: In the event of a split-tee draw (starting on both holes #1 and #10), the first group to start off each tee (#1 and #10) or the first following a Starter’s Time becomes a “following group” when they are delayed at any time by the last group to start from the opposite tee or the last group before a Starter’s Time.

Following Groups: A following group is out of position if it:

- takes more than the ***allotted time*** to complete a checkpoint hole **AND**
- completes play of a checkpoint hole more than 14 minutes after the preceding group completed play of that hole.

Time charts outlining the time per hole are on the scorecard. Times allotted for each hole are also given on the hole location sheets.

Penalties

When a group is out of position at any checkpoint, all the players in the group are liable to the following schedule of penalties. Final determination will occur in the scoring area of whether a breach or breaches of these guidelines has occurred:

- 1st missed checkpoint – warning
- 2nd missed checkpoint – liable to a penalty of one stroke
- 3rd missed checkpoint – liable to the general penalty
- 4th missed checkpoint – liable to disqualification.

When a group is liable for a penalty, the following criteria will be taken into consideration by the Pace of Play Official and the Tournament Rules Chair in making their decision:

- The player was delayed by the Committee; or
- The player was delayed by a circumstance beyond control of the player or the group; or
- The player was delayed by another player in the group and it was impossible or impracticable for the player to meet their checkpoint time solely as a result of that delay.

All one-stroke and two-stroke penalties related to Group Pace of Play will be determined by the Pace of Play Official and the Tournament Rules Chair and players will be advised in the scoring area. Their decision on penalty situations is final.

Note 1: If a group receives a warning at the 4th checkpoint hole and is out of position at the end of the round, each player in the group is liable to a penalty of one stroke if no effort was made by the players to complete the round within the allotted time.

Note 2: If a group clears the 4th checkpoint and has not received a warning at a previous checkpoint hole but is out of position at the end of the round, each player in the group is liable to a penalty of one stroke if no effort was made by the players to complete the round within the allotted time.

In both cases, a penalty will be added to the score of the final hole.

APPEALS:

An appeal will only be considered for a penalty of **disqualification** and must be made prior to the player returning their scorecard. The Tournament Rules Committee's decision is final.

RULES COMMITTEE – GOLF QUÉBEC