

Abstract

This document delineates Topstone Men's Golf Club's Pace of Play Policy, including pace standards, performance tracking, penalty for violation and penalty threshold, remediation requirements, and events that are exempt from the Penalty Violation section of this policy. For renewing members, pace of play performance will carry over to the next season.

Background

Golf is much more fun when you do not have to wait, and unless you are willing and able to get the coveted early morning tee times, it is likely that you will wait on groups in front of you at some point during your round. Regardless of fitness and ability levels, the proper pace of play is achievable. There is no doubt that some players may need to adjust their approach to the game in order to comply with pace standards. It is the goal of this policy to incentivize those who make the effort to comply with pace of play standards, and position those unable to comply with the policy at a place on the tee sheet where they will have the least amount of impact upon the field.

Pace standards

TMGC pace standards are defined in two ways:

1. Permissible round duration versus position on the tee sheet:

Group #	Permissible time to complete round
1 through 8	4 hours
9 through 16	4 hours 10 minutes
17 through end of field	4 hours 20 minutes

2. Should any group fail to meet the pace standard above, it will be improbable if not impossible that subsequent groups will be able to comply with the standard. As such, the secondary pace standard is that groups must finish within 12 minutes or less than the group in front of them.

The TMGC has tracked pace of play every week for the 2019 season and approximately 90% of our groups were able to play within the above standards. Based on this result, the TMGC Board had concluded the above standards have proven to be reasonable.

Example 1: Group 9 (permissible time standard is 4 hours 10 minutes) finished in 4:13 which exceeded the permissible time of 4:10, BUT their finish time was only 11 minutes behind Group 8. Group 9 - is NOT - in violation of the pace standard because they played within 12 minutes of the group in front of them.

Example 2: Group 9 (permissible time standard is 4 hours 10 minutes) finished in 4:13 but their finish time was 13 minutes behind Group 8. Group 9 - IS - in violation of the pace standard because they exceeded the permissible time AND finished more than 12 minutes behind Group 8.

Example 3: Group 1 finishes in a blistering 3:30. Group 2 finishes in 3:45, and a full 15 minutes after Group 1. Both groups are compliant with the pace standard, as they both finished within the permissible time of 4 hours to complete the round.

Another way to think of this. If you finish within 12 minutes of the group in front of you, you will NEVER be in violation of the policy, regardless of how long it took to play your round.

If you finish more than 12 minutes behind the group in front of you, then you must finish your round within the applicable permissible time of either 4:00, 4:10, or 4:20, depending on your group number as delineated.

Performance tracking

The Golf Shop and the TMGC Rules and Handicap Chairman maintain a record of pace compliance for all Men's Club rounds played. If a group is in violation of the pace standard, it will be highlighted on the "Results" sheets for that round and the Rules and Handicap Chairman notes the names of all members of that group in the Occurrences List. Individual Men's Club members are responsible for tracking their own violations and being aware if they have violated the Penalty Threshold noted below.

The Rules and Handicap Chairman, or their designee, will make an attempt to notify members (either in person, e-mail, text, voice message), in advance of their 5th violation of the policy and again after the 5th violation. The absence of notification by The Rules and Handicap Chairman, or their designee, does not absolve any member of any violation of this policy or the Tee Time Scheduling Penalty noted below. Primary responsibility remains with each member to know where they stand in relation to this policy.

Tee Time Scheduling Penalty

The penalty for repeated violation of the pace standard is that the member will not be able to schedule a tee time before group 17 on any given day. If there is more than one member in violation on any given day, it is at the discretion of the Golf Shop to determine the group order. If there are less than 17 groups signed up for a given day, the players in violation (and their groups) will be assigned the last groups for club play.

Penalty threshold

The trigger for the assessment of penalty is as follows:

1. A member has (5) pace of play violations; ...AND
2. Percentage of pace of play violations to total rounds played is equal to or greater than 20%.
 - a. Example 1: A member who has incurred a (5th) pace of play violation and has played 25 rounds or less, the percentage of rounds in violation would be equal to or greater than 20%. That member will be assessed a tee time scheduling penalty as noted above.
 - b. Example 2: A member who has incurred a (5th) pace of play violation and has played 26 rounds or more since the first violation of the latest 5 violations, the percentage of rounds in violation is less than 20%. That member will not be assessed a tee time scheduling penalty.

Note: The tee time scheduling penalty noted above will apply to the next round and all future rounds played (regardless of any "previously booked tee time") until the criteria for "Remediation" as noted below has been achieved.

Remediation

A member must log enough rounds in compliance with the pace of play policy to achieve a violation percentage less than 20%. Once the player has achieved a violation percentage less than 20%, that member will no longer be subject to the tee time scheduling penalty.

Exemptions to the Tee Time Scheduling Penalty

In order to accommodate scheduling and pre-determined structured tee times, the tee time scheduling penalty for those individuals currently in violation will be waived for the following events only.

- Individual and Two-Man Match Play Bracket Tournament Matches - Members must notify Pro-Shop staff prior to Golf Shop close of business on the Wednesday before the scheduled match.
- Club Championship

- Inter and Intra Club Matches
- Greenskeeper's Revenge
- Split-Tee Events - Tee times for those members then in violation will be placed at the end of the tee time slots on either 1st or 10th tee as determined by Pro Shop Staff.

Note - The Pace of Play time standards are still in effect for all rounds played in the above "Exemptions List". If any Member does not play within the established standards for any of these rounds, it will still be highlighted be as a violation for that round.

Penalty for Recording an Incorrect "Starting or Finishing Time"

Just as it is important to record accurate scores on each hole played, it is important to the integrity of implementing this policy, that all groups record accurate "Start Times and Finishing Times" on their groups scorecard. These times not only affect the group you are in, but also impacts the group behind you, if your group records an inaccurate finishing time.

If it is determined by the Pro Shop staff and / or Handicap and Rules Chairman that a group has recorded an inaccurate "Start or Finishing Time", that group will be highlighted as violating the Pace of Play Policy for that round. If the group was already in violation of any of the time standards noted above and recorded an inaccurate "Start or Finishing Time", they will be charged with 2 violations of this policy for that round.