

Wycombe Heights Seniors - March 2019

Pace of Play - PLEASE READ AND TAKE NOTE !!!!

Slow play continues to be one of the main frustrations of golf but **we can all do our bit** to reduce the level of frustration by following a few simple 'rules' **without spoiling our enjoyment of the game !!**

Think about the other players ! - You can be frustrated by others' slow players, so think about what they think of you !

“Ready golf” is a commonly used term which indicates that players should play when they are ready to do so. This approach should be used **for all forms of golf except Matchplay** where the "farthest from the hole" rule still applies, though there are still some easy things you can do to speed things up.

The R&A are introducing rules to speed up play, but **we have developed our own set of practices based on experience so please review them and then try to adopt them when playing, and also encourage your playing partners to do so.**

None of these should be difficult to implement !!!

For all forms of golf :

- **Always be ready to play your shot**
 - prepare for your shot as your playing partners are playing their shots.
 - walk towards your ball if it is ahead of theirs, provided it is safe to do so and does not distract the other player
- **If in doubt play a provisional**
 - if there is any doubt about whether or not you will find your ball, play a provisional, especially in strokeplay
- **On reaching the green always leave your golf bags on the side of the green where you exit for the next tee**
- **Leave the green as quickly as possible**
 - replace the flag and move on to the next tee straight away
 - don't mark your card until you're on the next tee
- **Consider picking up**
 - when there is no point in playing another shot, pick up and move on – for example when you've 'blobbed' in stableford or have already lost the hole in matchplay. While you may feel you've paid your money and want to complete the hole, you must consider how this can affect the others.
- **Help your playing partners** - for example :
 - rake the bunker for your partner
 - replace divots
 - mark their ball on the green
 - move their bag/trolley
 - etc.
- Also note that from next year there is a new 'rule' about the time taken to play a shot :
 - *It is recommended that you make the **stroke** in no more than 40 seconds after you are (or should be) able to play without interference or distraction. (You should usually be able to play more quickly than that and are encouraged to do so.)*

Playing your shots (except in Matchplay where you must follow correct order)

- **Shorter hitters should play first** from the tee or fairway if longer hitters have to wait
- **Hit tee shots when ready** rather than waiting for the person who has the honour
- **Play your shot when it is safe to do so**, if a player further away faces a challenging shot and is taking time to assess their options
- **Play your shot before helping someone** look for a lost ball
- **Play your shot if a person who has just played from a bunker is still furthest from the hole** but is delayed due to raking the bunker
- **When a player's ball has gone over the back of a green, any player closer to the hole but chipping from the front of the green should play** while the other player is walking round to assess their shot
- **Putt when ready** rather than waiting for the person furthest from the hole so long as you are not standing on their line - but first check with your playing partners
- **Putt out** even if it means standing close to someone else's line - but first ask permission

General points to consider :

- **Remind your playing partners**
 - while this has to be done sensitively, sometimes people are slow simply because they're not thinking and would not be offended by a reminder.
- **Always be aware of the group behind**
 - there is nothing more frustrating than following a group who are slow and who just don't seem to even be aware that the group behind may be being held up.
- **Be prepared to call the group behind through**
 - be aware that the group behind may be ready to play, and if you know you have a major search underway or are clearly holding them up, consider letting them play through.
- **Don't delay things by chatting**
 - of course golf is a friendly social game with plenty of chat and banter, but don't stop to chat if it will hold things up. There's usually plenty of time for that while you're walking to the hole (but don't dawdle !) or on the next tee (but don't if you could tee off !) or, of course, at the 19th
- **Call-up holes**
 - remember that for Monday competitions the 2nd and 16th holes are designated as call-up holes. If the following group are ready to play, mark your balls, make sure your trolleys are not in the way, move away from the green and signal to the group that they can take their tee shots
 - Of course, if the group behind are not ready to play you should proceed to putt out
 - Apart from helping to keep things moving, one of the purposes is so that you can see where their tee shots land and let them know whether it's OK or you may need to play a provisional.