



Keep It Moving!

2022 Pace of Play Guidelines

We all know pace of play can make or break the enjoyment of a golf round, and in an effort maximize enjoyment for all, Step by Step Golf asks players to adopt our “Keep It Moving” pace of play guidelines. For additional information, please read [this article](#) from Golf Digest.

Forward Focus: If you are in the first group out, you are measured by time. We will provide a timing matrix at each tournament. All other groups are measured by their position on the course relative to the group in front of them. (The position of the group behind you is irrelevant.) Your group should stay within one hole of the group in front of you. If the group in front of you is more than one hole ahead, you’re behind and are expected to close the gap.

Be a Buddy: Help your playing partners by shooting distances, moving golf carts, or getting clubs (especially in a cart path only scenario). Assist each other with snacks from the beverage cart, rather than everyone stopping and delaying play.

Be “Kenny Rogers”: Know when to fold ‘em. Many of our events have a maximum allowed score. If you can't beat it, pick up. Many of our events are match play. If you're out of the hole, pick up. Don't fold too early, and don't pick up if your ball must be holed for any reason, but be aware of opportunities when it's best to pick up and move on.

Clear the Green: Once your group has puttied out, clear the green area and move on to the tee box. Record your scores after arriving at the next tee box.

The 3-Minute Search: The USGA allows for a 3-minute search from the time you arrive in the area of the ball. The provisional is your friend. Learn about it and use it. Also, in most of our adult tournaments, penalty areas play as lateral (red).

Consider Playing Ready Golf: In all events, including our match play events, we encourage you to play ready golf until your ball is within 20-30 yards of the green, at which time you should play with honors. For ready golf to be in effect, you must either 1) gain agreement with all competitors in the group, or 2) have been given instruction to do so by the SBSG Tournament Committee.

Forward Motion: This is the easiest way to make a big difference. Stay focused on either playing your shot or planning your next shot. After each shot, do something to continue moving forward. Avoid the temptation to stand in one place and observe. Keep moving forward. Get your yardage. Plan your shot. There are many things you can do to be ready for your next shot sooner.

Putt Out: We're not suggesting to play out of turn, especially when it matters, or to ignore your opponent's line, but please consider tapping in when you feel comfortable rather than marking, (Juniors, pay careful attention to this one!)