



MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

MSHSL PACE OF PLAY POLICY

(Adopted by the Golf Advisory Council March 20, 2023)

PACE OF PLAY

The following conditions and policies govern the MSHSL pace of play at all Sub-Section, Section and State Tournament play.

The penalty for Breach of this Rule, in accordance with Rule 5.6a, is as follows:

**First offense – Verbal Warning; Second offense - One (1) stroke;
Third offense – Two (2) strokes, Fourth offense - Disqualification."**

READY GOLF

“Ready Golf,” or the process of playing a stroke when ready and not waiting until it is “your turn” based on the honor on the teeing area or distance from the hole, is the MSHSL standard. When doing so, players always should be playing in a safe and responsible way.

PLAYER’S RESPONSIBILITY

A player must not unreasonably delay of play (Rule 5.6a: Unreasonable Delay of Play), either when playing a hole or between two holes. Each player is responsible for his/her group's maintaining proper position on the course in relation to the rest of the field, and this is the standard expected by the MSHSL.

Players should walk directly and quickly when walking to their next shot, and prepare for the next stroke while others are playing, in order to be ready to play when it is their turn.

GROUP OUT OF POSITION

Each group should be approximately one (1) starting interval behind the preceding group throughout the entire round. The position of the following group has no bearing in determining whether or not a group and/or player's pace of play is satisfactory. It is the responsibility of each player to be aware of his/her position on the golf course.

A group that is deemed out of position by the Rules Committee will be given a verbal warning regarding their pace of play for its first offense. Should the same group need to be addressed a second or subsequent time by the Committee regarding pace of play, each player in the group will be assessed a one stroke penalty per Rule 5.6a. However, if it is obvious to the Committee that the group is out of position due to the play of one or more players (but not all) within the group (such as consistently taking more than 40 seconds to play a stroke

as stated below or not walking quickly between shots), the Committee may assign the penalty to those players and not the entire group as outlined in the penalty statement above.

DEFINITION OF "OUT OF POSITION"

A group will be considered to be out of position if it (a) has taken more time than has been allotted to reach that point on the course and (b) has a clear par 3 or par 4 in front of them, or the group in question arrives on the teeing ground. Both (a) and (b) must apply for a group to be out of position. A group is expected to keep up with the group in front of it.

TIMING

A player is permitted 40 seconds to play a stroke. Timing starts when the player has a reasonable time to reach his/her ball, it is clearly the player's turn to play, and nothing interferes with the player's ability to play the stroke. Time taken for determining yardage, club selection, wind conditions, etc. will count against the player's overall time. On the putting green, timing begins after a player has had a reasonable amount of time to repair ball marks and remove loose impediments on the line of putt. Timing may start before a player has replaced the ball on the putting green.

Any player taking an excess of 40 seconds to play a given shot, except in extraordinary circumstances, is subject to a penalty for undue delay as prescribed above.