

## **Ready Golf**

The guidance on pace of play that the players are required to read at Registration regarding Ready Golf is as follows:

### **Ready Golf**

- In stroke play, "Ready Golf" should be played, but in a safe and responsible way
- Play when you are ready - you don't have to wait until the farthest away player has played
- For example, play Ready Golf:
  - When the player farther away has a difficult shot and is assessing options
  - When a longer hitter has to wait for a green to clear
  - On the tee if the player with the honour is delayed
  - By playing your shot before helping to look for a lost ball

As this is a request rather than a requirement, referees should not become involved in discussions on ready golf unless a group has an issue with its pace of play.

### **Impact of Ready Golf on Pace of Play Condition Implementation:**

When Seeking Co-Operation from 'Out of Position' Groups:

- When asking a group to get back into position, a request for them to play ready golf should be made
- An example of a polite request would be "I need to let you know that you are now out of position. Please help us by doing your best to catch up. And please play ready golf to help you to get back into position."

When Advising a Group That it is Going to be Timed:

- When a group is advised that it is going to be timed, a strong request for them to play ready golf should be made
- An example would be "I need to let you know that you now being timed. I strongly recommend that you play ready golf to help you to get back into position."

When Timing a Group:

- In general, timing should be carried out in accordance with the standard guidelines on individual timing assuming the normal order of play (i.e. the player farthest from the hole plays first)
- However, if a player takes an opportunity to save time by playing ready golf, the referee should treat that player as if he/she was a first to play player (i.e. the 50 second time limit for the stroke applies)
- And it should be a very rare situation where a player whose is playing out of turn to save time gets a bad time
- Equally, if a player in a group has played out of turn to save time, the player whose turn it was to play should, in most circumstances, then be able to use that time to prepare for their own shot, meaning that, even if they were, technically, the first to play, they should be treated as if they are second or third to play (i.e. the 40 second time limit for the stroke applies)

### **Additional Points**

- The fairest way to apply the condition is for all referees at the Championship to follow the same guidelines with the same commitment
- Communication among the team is vital to the successful implementation of the Condition
- Communication with the players is vital to the successful implementation of the Condition
- Wherever and whenever possible, players should be given some practical guidance regarding their responsibilities to the rest of the field, including what is expected of them in certain situations to make up time and get back on schedule e.g. in the event of a lost ball, a long search or waiting for and receiving rulings, etc.
- Initial polite requests for co-operation often gain the best response
- If it is possible for you or another referee to alert the group behind that you have spoken to the group in front (even if the group is not being timed) then it is helpful to do so (this is even more important if a group is to be timed)
- Your responsibility is to the field rather than any player or group

- If you are in doubt whether to take action (e.g. you are not sure whether to speak to a group or not) err on the side of taking action, but it is worth remembering that there is an inevitable ebb and flow in a round of golf and very small gaps will often be closed without action being taken
- When the course is full it may be impossible to deal with all the pace of play issues, just like the police cannot deal with all speeding motorists, but you should do what you can with the groups that come to your attention and accept that some groups might “get away with it”
- Referees administering bad time warnings and applying penalties should be given full support by the member in charge of the Championship
- As a matter of policy, any player with a bad time or a penalty, or any player considered to be causing a pace of play problem, should be spoken to by the Committee member in charge once they have finished recording
- Referees should keep the Committee member in charge advised on any pace of play issues, including bad times, penalties and problem players