



PROMOTING READY GOLF

The new Rules of Golf place great emphasis on pace of play and playing “Ready Golf”.

The Rules (Player’s Edition) say:

“Ready Golf”. In stroke Play, you are both allowed and encouraged to play out of turn in a safe and responsible way, such as when:

- You agree with another player to do so for convenience or to save time,
- Your ball comes to rest a very short distance from the hole and you wish to hole out, or
- You are ready and able to play before another player whose turn it is to play under the normal order of play, so long as in playing out of turn you do not endanger, distract or interfere with any other player.

But if the player whose turn it is to play is ready and able to play and indicates that he or she wants to play first, other players should generally wait until that player has played.

In match play, to save time, you and your opponent may agree to play out of turn.

Given the overriding obligation to play in a safe and responsible way, in stroke play (but only by agreement in match play), examples of ready golf include:

1. Shorter hitters – or those using an iron - playing first from the teeing area if longer hitters – or those using a driver - have to wait because the group in front is within their range
 2. Playing from the teeing area if the player with the honour is delayed. The player with the honour should not delay play by marking his or her score card before playing.
 3. Playing if another player further away from the hole is taking time to assess his or her shot.
 4. Playing before helping another player to find his or her ball
 5. Where appropriate, walking ahead to your ball while another player, whose ball is further from the hole, is walking to his or her ball or preparing to make a stroke (as long as you do so in a safe, responsible and considerate way).
 6. Playing when you are closer to the hole and intend to chip from the front or side of the green while another player, whose ball is over the back of the green, is walking around to reach it.
 7. Playing if another player has played from a bunker, is still farthest from the hole but is delayed due to raking the bunker
 8. Putting out even if you are standing close to another player’s line
- More generally, in all formats of golf:
- a) Be aware of your position in relation to the group in front. Keep up with that group. It is no excuse that your group is not delaying the group behind; soon, your group could be doing so if it has a ball search or two. If your group is falling behind, it must make a real effort to catch up.
 - b) Always play a provisional ball if there is a chance your original ball may be lost outside a penalty area or may be out of bounds.
 - c) Do not wait until it is your turn to play before:
 - Putting on your glove
 - Calculating your yardage
 - Considering your strategy for the stroke
 - Selecting and pulling a club from your bag
 - Assessing your line of putt