

Wareham Golf Club



Pace of Play Code

Slow play affects everyone on the course. All players should abide by this Code.

1. Competition and General Play Etiquette

- Competition play does not give a group automatic priority over other golfers. **All** groups, whether in a competition or general play, are expected to keep up with the group in front and avoid delaying those behind.
- A group is not considered to be out of position simply because a faster group behind catches up. **The key question is whether there is a clear gap ahead and whether the group has lost position with the group in front.**
- If a group has lost position and is delaying the group behind, it should make every effort to regain position. If there is a clear gap ahead and it is practical to do so, the group should invite the faster group behind to play through.
- Where the course is full, or where a competition field is moving steadily ahead, playing through may not improve the pace of play. In those circumstances, all players should remain patient and avoid putting pressure on the group ahead.
- Players should not confront or complain directly to the group ahead. If there is a concern about repeated slow play, it should be raised politely with the Pro Shop, Competition Committee or Club management after the round.

2. Use the tees appropriate to your ability and hitting distance.

Except where specific tees are required for a trophy competition, players are encouraged to choose the tees that allow them to play the course at an enjoyable & reasonable pace.

3. Play Ready Golf in stroke play, when safe to do so. Do not wait unnecessarily for “the honour”, including on the tee and green

4. Be ready to play when it is your turn.

- Glove on and club selected
- Keep pre-shot routines short
- One practice swing should usually be enough
- Once it is your turn, aim to play within **20–40 seconds**.

5. Potentially lost balls.

- Play a provisional ball when there is doubt
- The maximum search time is **3 minutes**
- The clock starts when the player begins searching
- Where possible, play your own shot before helping others look

6. Pick up when you cannot score. In Stableford or Maximum Score formats, pick up once you can no longer score on the hole.

7. Leave bags and trolleys near the exit route to the next tee.

8. Mark cards at the next tee. Do not delay the group behind by completing scorecards beside or on the green.

9. Respect everyone else on the course. A few seconds saved on **every** shot makes a significant difference to the pace and enjoyment of the whole field