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## **What Should I Know About Slow Play**

Golf's biggest issue today is slow play.

Slow players can take as long as 5 ½ hours to play 18 holes of golf. People in this fast moving world do not want to spend 5 plus hours waiting on the slow group a head of them.

Back in the day, a foursome walking 18 holes could walk the course in 3 hours. It was common to let the group behind you hit up to the green on par threes and if your group was slower than the group behind you it was common courtesy to let the faster group play through the slower group. Times have changed, it is rare to have slower groups let faster groups play through.

## **What makes golf slower today?**

The rules of golf place no time limit on playing a specific stroke.

Pros on TV take extra time to play their shots as they are making their living at the game, however the amateurs continue to mimic the pros pre shot routines.

Keeping carts on path only (CPO) may slow play by ½ hour.

The beverage cart may slow the play by ½ hour.

A fivesome may slow play ½ hour over a foursome.

Before you know it, a 3 hour round of golf is a 5 hour round of golf.

The PGA Tour has only enforced the slow penalty twice in 15 years thus encouraging college golfers, high school golfers and other amateur golfers to emulate their pro golfing brethren.

**What can you do to improve the pace of play?**

Minimize your time on the tee

Plan your shot before you get to your ball

Keep your pre-shot routine short

Aim to play in 20 seconds

Minimize your time with the cart girl

Keep up with the group in front of you

Your correct position on the course is immediately behind the group in front of you, not immediately in front of the group behind you.

If cart path only, take 2 clubs so you do not have to walk back to the cart.

Play ready golf.

Let faster players play through.

It is refreshing to see local golf pros trying to improve the pace of play. At Quail Creek we are fortunate that the course drains well and we have less cart path only (CPO) days than most courses in the area. Our beverage cart attendants are efficient and professional at providing drinks and snacks to the golfers. Fivesomes are only allowed on slow days and only with the expressed permission of the pro or the pro shop staff. If the fivesome is slowing play they will be asked to split up in order to restore the pace of play. The MGA requests that rounds take no longer than between 4 hours and 4:45 min. Some MGA golfers play in less than 4 hours.

Do your part in improving the pace of play .....