



TOMGC Rules and Greens

March 2023

Slow play is the bane of most golfers. From the very best, to even those of us who play bogey golf, nothing gets you dirtier looks or even the occasional “Pick it up” yelled from the group standing in the fairway behind you! Our home course is very sensitive when it comes to those who slow the pace of play during a busy day at the golf course. They have even been known to send out a member of their friendly staff to ask the violators to skip a hole so they might get back into position. Twin Oaks encourages pace of play by offering re-play incentives to those who complete their round in under four hours and twenty minutes. As the representative “Men’s Club”, I believe it is incumbent on us to do everything in our power to meet this very achievable goal. You should know that this subject has reached the ears of your board, and there has even been discussions with regards to limiting prospective member’s indexes to avoid the slow play that is often attributed to those who carry the higher index. With pace of play in mind, here are some tips that I have picked up from various sources that might help:

- Be early, not on time, and that way you will never be late! This is a life lesson that my dad taught me, and it is just as important at the golf course as anywhere else. Our golf course will very often start sending our Men’s Club groups out ahead of our scheduled tee time. (This may be due to unfortunate rumors that the Men’s Club is slow.) Try to be on the putting green and available for the tee at least 20 minutes before your scheduled time.
- Don’t waste time on the tee. When the fairway/green is clear, someone should already have a tee in the ground; ready to go!
- Before you reach your ball in the fairway, or on the green, you should be prepared to make your next shot. You should have a good idea about wind, yardage, and club selection as you are approaching your ball. If you are being dropped off at your ball, have the club you need, and maybe a club for the next shot if you are walking to the green from where you have been dropped off.
- Learn how to share a golfcart. If you are driving the cart, and you reach your ball first, take the club/clubs you might need, and let your riding partner take the cart to his ball, if it will not interfere with your shot or that of the other members of your group. The same holds true if you reach the riding partner’s ball first. Have him take what he needs, and then proceed to your ball so you are prepared if you are next. You can go back and pick him up, or he can walk to wherever you are after he has completed his shot.

- Record scores at the next tee, not next to the green that you are leaving.
- Don't play a ball that you can't afford to lose! The search time has been reduced to 3 minutes from 5. We should not be spending that much time looking for a ball.
- Know your local rules, especially with regards to holes number 3, 4, 7, 9, and 18. With regards to where to drop a ball, remember it is that spot where the ball last crossed the boundary of the penalty area.
- On the greens, be prepared, but don't be a nuisance. Think about your putt, and what it might do as you are approaching your ball to mark it. Also determine who is up, and be ready when it is your turn. If you can do it, without being a distraction, line up your putt while your playing partner is making his putt. If you can hole out, do so. Otherwise mark the ball and get out of the way.
- Go easy on the practice swings. You are probably not going to fix anything with 12 practice swings! It is funny how it all changes when we get that little white ball in front of the club. Take one or two and hit the ball. If you are waiting your turn to play, take all the practice swings you like, if it is not going to disturb the person who is hitting.
- Play it forward. If you are eligible, move to the forward tee boxes. There is no shame playing from the forward tee box, and it may change your whole day!
- And finally, if you are having a really bad day, start playing net double bogey golf. Pick up after you have reached a net double bogey on a hole. Yes, it will most likely take you out of the competition, but you and your playing partners will be far less frustrated. A net double bogey is; double bogey plus any strokes you are afforded on the hole due to your handicap. For example, if I get two strokes on a par 4, I need to pick up after 8 attempts to hole out. (Double bogey 6, plus my 2 handicap strokes.)

Golf is a very hard game, and sometimes an equally frustrating game. Let's do our best to help reduce some of the frustration for all involved, by just keeping up with the group in front of us. That is our duty! If you can't keep up, and there are the same number of players in that group as yours, then there is a concern; your group needs to pick up your pace of play. If you can do that, you will enjoy it more, and so will the guys behind you.

Good day, and good golf.