Goonawarra Pace of Play Policy

Goonawarra Golf Club is implementing a slow play penalty points system.
This is to ensure all players pace of play is line with acceptable guidelines. Any players outside of the acceptable times will need to address their behaviours to bring them into line.

To allow for what is sometimes a minor one-off indiscretion nobody will be penalized on first or second offence. Only repeat offenders who accumulate points on multiple occasions will be penalised, however this will be done on an increasing scale, so those who do not address their slow play will find the penalties become harsher the more often it happens.

This policy will be reviewed on a regular basis and necessary adjustments made until all players are meeting their pace of play responsibilities.

Time to Play your Shot

Acceptable time to play your shot is between 40-50 seconds. This includes any/all lining up, cleaning the ball, choosing club, reading green, practice swings etc. Eg Preferred lies do not add to this time.

If you take longer than this and are out of position you may find yourself being timed and penalized by fellow players, match committee or course marshal in addition to any other penalties identified in this policy.

Out Of Position

You are out of position if the timer on your Miscore app says that you are behind Time Par.

The position of the group ahead will also be considered. EG Even if over Time Par if you are waiting on group ahead, you will not be considered out of position.

Course marshal may ask to see your timer to prove you are not out of position.

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Time Par

Time Par is set to 4:05 minutes for all tees except Black Tees
Time Par is set to 4:15 minutes for Black Tees

Slow Play Penalty Points

Play within the designated time par is a requirement of all players and all players must make whatever adjustments they need to complete their rounds within the limit.

That said there are sometimes situations that may cause a group to lose time late in an otherwise well-timed round. Eg Looking for balls (within 3 minutes max time allowed) on last couple of holes. For this reason, an allowance of 8 minutes has been generously provided.

All players finishing over time par (e.g. 4:05) and not within 8 minutes of the group in front will receive 1 slow play penalty point.

All players finishing over time par plus 5 minutes (e.g. 4:10) and not within 8 minutes of the group in front will receive 2 slow play penalty point.

All players finishing over time par plus 10 minutes (e.g. 4:15) and not within 8 minutes of the group in front will receive 3 slow play penalty points

Points will expire after 60 rounds or 12 months, whichever comes first

Groups that call following group(s) through when they are less than 1 Par 4 hole behind the group in front will have their position relative to the group in front of them reset to the group they have let through, provided such a call through occurs before 15th hole.

A report is run daily from within Miscore system which tracks competition times.
This report is what will be used to police this policy.
Times are generated when scores are submitted after play, so players need to submit their scores immediately after play. A groups time will be based on the fastest time recorded for a group, so 1 player forgetting to complete their score will not impact the group.

Players already see their times when they complete their score.
Players will be notified by email if they receive any slow play penalty points.

Appeals

Players can appeal against points allocated to them by supplying a detailed explanation as to the circumstances that caused the delay to MATCH@GOONAWARRAGOLFCLUB.COM.AU.
The appeal will then be reviewed and a response sent.

The following reasons will not be accepted.

1. Age of players
2. Handicap of players
3. Type of, or perceived importance of competition (e.g. Medal / Club Champs / Matchplay etc)

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4. Local rules in place, EG Preferred Lies.
5. Overall score of player(s)

Automatic Deduction

To provide additional support, to players in getting their times under control without being immediately impacted, a player receiving 1 or 2 penalty points for the first time will have the points cancelled and will receive notification to that effect. This acts as an additional one-time warning for low level infringements.
Any second offence or being allocated 3 penalty points will stand.

Manual Deduction

Once a month, players playing in a group of 4 who finish their round in under 4:00 hours and within 8 minutes of the group ahead, may request 1 slow play point to be deducted from their total. This only applies when the total points are already above zero. i.e. Points cannot go into negative.

Penalties

Level 1

Players reaching 6 penalty points will trigger the first level of penalty.
After receiving 6 penalty points any player finishing over time par plus 5 minutes will be required to apply a 1 shot penalty to their round.

Penalty does not apply to match play events, but will carry forward to next stroke play event.
In Gross/Nett event this will apply to their 18th hole
In Stableford event, they will be required to adjust their score to deduct 1 Stableford point on hole closest to 18th hole that has a point scored
In Par event they will be required to adjust their score to add a minus 1 to hole closest to 18th hole that has either had a + or square score.
It is the players responsibility to apply this penalty and send a confirmation email to MATCH@GOONAWARRAGOLFCLUB.COM.AU to indicate that they have done so.
Failure to apply the penalty and send notification will result in the player receiving a warning and
It will also trigger a 2 shot penalty to apply the next time a time penalty is received.
A second failure to apply penalty will result in player being suspended from being allowed to play in competitions for a period of 1 week.

If a player believes they have finished within 2 mins of the group ahead they can appeal the penalty rather than apply penalty by using the same email address.
Only one unsuccessful appeal is allowed, once an unsuccessful appeal is processed, no further appeals will be considered at this level.

1 slow play penalty point will be also be allocated, taking total to 7 points.

Level 2

Players reaching 9 penalty points will trigger the second level of penalty.

After receiving 9 penalty points any player finishing over time par plus 5 minutes will be required to apply a 2 shot penalty to their round.

Penalty does not apply to match play events, but will carry forward to next stroke play event.
In Gross/Nett event this will apply to their 18th hole
In Stableford event, they will be required to adjust their score to deduct 1 Stableford point on hole closest to 18th hole that has a point scored
In Par event they will be required to adjust their score to add a minus 1 to hole closest to 18th hole that has either had a + or square score.
It is the players responsibility to apply this penalty and send a confirmation email to

MATCH@GOONAWARRAGOLFCLUB.COM.AU to indicate that they have done so.
If a player has previously failed to apply penalty at step 1.
They will be retrospectively disqualified from the competition, with loss of any all prizes, including Winners, NTP, Pro Ball etc and they will have their playing rights suspended for 1 week.

First time failure to apply the penalty and send notification will result in the player receiving a warning, iIt will also trigger a DQ penalty to apply the next time a time penalty is received.
A second failure to apply penalty will result in player having their playing rights suspended for 1 week.

If a player believes they have finished with 2 mins of the group ahead they can appeal the penalty rather than apply penalty by using the same email address.

Only one unsuccessful appeal is allowed, once an unsuccessful appeal is processed, no further appeals will be considered at this level.

1 slow play penalty point will be allocated, taking total to 10 points.

Level 3

Players reaching 12 penalty points will trigger the third level of penalty.
After receiving 12 penalty points any player finishing over time par plus 5 minutes will be disqualified from the competition they are playing in, this includes Match Play Events.

It is the players responsibility to apply this penalty and send a confirmation email to MATCH@GOONAWARRAGOLFCLUB.COM.AU to indicate that they have done so.
Having previously applied penalties and sent confirmation there is no more warnings available.

If a player fails their responsibility to apply the penalty
They will be retrospectively disqualified from the competition, with loss of any all prizes, including Winners, NTP, Pro Ball etc and they will have their playing rights suspended for 2 weeks.

If a player believes they have finished within 2 mins of the group ahead they can appeal the penalty rather than apply penalty by using the same email address.
Only one unsuccessful appeal is allowed, once an unsuccessful appeal is processed, no further appeals will be considered at this level.

1 slow play penalty point will be allocated, taking total to 13 points.

Level 4

Players reaching 15 penalty points will trigger the fourth level of penalty.
After receiving 15 penalty points any player finishing over time par plus 5 minutes will be disqualified from the competition they are playing in, this includes Match Play Events.
It is the players responsibility to apply this penalty and send a confirmation email to MATCH@GOONAWARRAGOLFCLUB.COM.AU to indict that they have done so.
They will be retrospectively disqualified from the competition, with loss of any all prizes, including Winners, NTP, Pro Ball etc and they will have their playing rights suspended for 2 weeks.
They will also have their competition rights suspended for a period of 1 month.

If a player believes they have finished within 2 mins of the group ahead they can appeal the penalty rather than apply penalty by using the same email address.
Only one unsuccessful appeal is allowed, once an unsuccessful appeal is processed, no further appeals will be considered at this level.
1 slow play penalty point will be allocated, taking total to 13 points.

Level 5

It is not expected that any plyers will be continuing to persevere with slow play habits from this point, however if they do then additional stronger penalties will be identified and applied on a case-by-case basis.

Assistance

To ensure fairness, any player who finds themselves moving into or thru the various penalty levels may request assistance with the process from Match Committee.

They may also at any time request assistance with how to speed up their play.

Dick Stevenson

Director of Golf

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