

## **PGA TOUR PACE OF PLAY POLICY 2022-2023 SEASON**

Rule 5.6b states, in part: "The player should play at a prompt pace throughout the round. To encourage and enforce prompt play, the Committee shall set a Pace of Play Policy." The following Pace of Play Policy, including penalties and fines, for stroke play competitions has been adopted. In the administration of this Pace of Play Policy, a member of the Rules Committee shall not tolerate abuse, oral or otherwise, by a player. Such abuse may constitute conduct unbecoming a professional.

### **DEFINITION AND APPLICATION OF "OUT OF POSITION"**

The first group to start will be considered out of position if, at any time during the round, they exceed the time allotted to play, as detailed on the applicable course's Pace of Play Chart.

Any subsequent group will be considered out of position if, at any time during the round, they (a) exceed the allotted time to play and (b) reach a par-3 hole that is open and free of play, reach a par-4 hole and have not played a stroke from the teeing ground before the hole is open and free of play, or reach a par-5 hole and all players have not played a stroke from the teeing ground before the hole is open and free of play.

**NOTE: The Committee reserves the right to time a group when the Committee deems it necessary. Further, if a player is determined by the Rules Committee to be unreasonably slow, he may be timed individually at the Rules Committee's discretion, regardless of whether his group is out of position.**

### **DEFINITION AND APPLICATION OF "OBSERVATION LIST"**

Any player with an overall average of 45 seconds or more per stroke over a 10-tournament rolling period in the current and prior seasons will be placed on the observation list.

The calculation of the overall average of 45 seconds or more per stroke over a 10-tournament rolling period is calculated, as follows:

- Each individual stroke's time is the amount of elapsed time from when the preceding player hits his shot to the time the player hits his shot.
- The following strokes are then removed from the calculation of the average:
  - All strokes in official pro-am tournament rounds (i.e. The American Express, AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am);
  - All drops, penalties, provisionals and all shots immediately following those shots in a group;
  - Each instance of the first player to play in a similar position (i.e. first tee shot, first putt, etc.);
  - All shots that require large spans of time; and
  - For each individual player, the top 10% slowest shots.

The observation list will be updated on a weekly basis. Any player on the observation list will be notified in writing and in person (if possible) by a member of the Rules Committee prior to the start of competition.

During competition rounds, the Rules Committee will monitor players on the observation list throughout their round. Players on the observation list must play each stroke throughout the round in under 60 seconds, in the absence of a valid reason for taking longer. If observed by an official to exceed 60 seconds without a valid reason, that player will be timed on an individual basis as soon as he can be notified. If the player does not exceed the applicable time to play a stroke within two holes, timing will cease.

The 45 second average will be reviewed by the Policy Board on an annual basis.

### **TIMING**

When the Rules Committee determines that a group is starting to fall behind, or is just out of position, the group (or certain players within the group) will receive an official warning. Such warning will be given as soon as possible and given only once during a round. In some circumstances, the Rules Committee may commence timing without having given such a warning, including when a group has already fallen significantly behind and/or is affecting other groups. Warnings given to players in the lead groups will not count towards their cumulative warnings for the season.

Once a group (or certain players within the group) has been warned, the Rules Committee (if available to do so) will monitor the pace of individual players in the group to determine if any players should be timed individually, as opposed to the entire group, in the case the group does not regain its position on the course.

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When the Rules Committee determines that a group or an individual out of position will be timed, all players in the group, or the specific individual, will be informed they are being timed. Such timing could occur on any hole, including the finishing holes of a round.

Other than on the putting green, the timing of a player's stroke will begin when it is his turn to play and he can play without interference or distraction. Time spent determining yardage will count as time taken for the next stroke. On the putting green, timing will begin after a player has been allowed a reasonable amount of time to mark, lift, clean and replace his ball, repair his ball mark and other damage on his line of play and remove loose impediments on his line of play.

**NOTE:** A player is permitted 40 seconds to play a stroke, and an extra 10 seconds (for a total of 50 seconds) will be allowed for:

- (a) the first player to play a stroke on a par-3 hole;
- (b) the first player to play a second stroke on a par-4 or par-5 hole;
- (c) the first player to play a third stroke on a par-5 hole;
- (d) the first player to play around the putting green;
- (e) the first player to play on the putting green.

Any player in a group being timed, who exceeds the applicable time to play a stroke (bad time), will be informed as soon as practicable.

### **PENALTIES DURING TOURNAMENT**

First Offense:

One (1) timing exceeding the applicable time to play a stroke (1 bad time) - no penalty.

Second Offense:

One more timing (total of two) exceeding the applicable time to play a stroke (2 bad times) - a one (1) stroke penalty.

Third Offense:

One more timing (total of three) exceeding the applicable time to play a stroke (3 bad times) - a two (2) stroke penalty.

Fourth Offense:

One more timing (total of four) exceeding the applicable time to play a stroke (4 bad times) - disqualification.

**NOTE:** Any timing exceeding the applicable time to play a stroke (bad time) will be carried over throughout the tournament.

### **EXCESSIVE SHOT TIME**

If any player in the field is observed by a Rules Official to take more than 120 seconds on a shot in the absence of a good reason for doing so, he will be given an Excessive Shot Time.

If an Excessive Shot Time is observed by an official, the official will notify the player as soon as is practical. This could be immediately after a shot if on a tee shot or approach shot, or at the conclusion of the hole if around or on the green.

All timing of strokes will be done by the Rules Officials on-course and in-person. Television footage and/or ShotLink data will not be used other than to corroborate the individual stroke time recorded and only if the officials choose to use such information.

Any player who receives two Excessive Shot Times in a tournament will be also be placed on the Observation List for subsequent rounds.

### **FINES CUMULATIVE DURING SEASON**

All warnings, bad times, excessive shot times and timings accumulate throughout the season.

#### **WARNINGS**

First through Twenty-fourth (24th) Offense:

First through Twenty-fourth (24th) occasion of being warned that your group is out of position - no fine

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Twentieth (25<sup>th</sup>) Offense:

Twentieth (25<sup>h</sup>) occasion of being warned that your group is out of position – a fine of \$20,000

**NOTE 1:** Warnings will not be counted during official pro-am tournament rounds (i.e. AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am).

**NOTE 2:** Warnings will accumulate throughout the season. Warnings given to players in the lead groups will not count towards their cumulative warnings for the season.

**BAD TIMES AND EXCESSIVE SHOT TIMES**

First Offense:

First timing exceeding the applicable time to play a stroke (1 bad time) - no fine.

One (1) timing exceeding 120 seconds to play a stroke (1 excessive shot time) – no penalty.

Second Offense:

Second timing exceeding the applicable time to play a stroke (2 bad times) - a fine of \$50,000.

One more timing (total of two) exceeding 120 seconds to play a stroke (2 excessive shot time) – a fine of \$10,000

Third and Subsequent Offenses:

Third and subsequent timings exceeding the applicable time to play a stroke (3 or more bad times) - a fine of \$20,000 for each offense.

Third and subsequent timings exceeding 120 seconds to play a stroke (3 or more excessive shot times) – a fine of \$20,000 for each offense.

**NOTE 1:** Timings exceeding the applicable time to play a stroke (bad times) and timings exceeding 120 seconds to play a stroke (excessive shot times) will accumulate throughout the season.

**NOTE 2:** Timings exceeding the applicable time to play a stroke (bad times) and timings exceeding 120 seconds to play a stroke (excessive shot times) on the PGA TOUR; PGA TOUR Champions; and Korn Ferry Tour will be counted together for the purposes of determining the cumulative number of timings exceeding the applicable time to play a stroke during a season. Fines will be pro-rated based on the number of occurrences on each respective tour.

**NOTE 3:** Timings exceeding the applicable time to play a stroke (bad times) and timings exceeding 120 seconds to play a stroke (excessive shot times) at Major Championships and official money World Golf Championships will be counted for the purposes of determining the cumulative number of timings exceeding the applicable time to play a stroke during a season.

**TIMINGS**

First through Ninth Offense:

First through ninth occasion of being out of position and timed - no fine.

Tenth Offense:

Tenth occasion of being out of position and timed - a fine of \$50,000.

Eleventh and Subsequent Offenses:

Eleventh and subsequent occasion of being out of position and timed - a fine of \$5,000 for each offense.

**NOTE 1:** Timings will accumulate throughout the season.

**NOTE 2:** Timings which occur on the PGA TOUR; PGA TOUR Champions; and Korn Ferry Tour will be counted together for the purposes of determining the cumulative number of timings during a season. Fines will be pro-rated based on the number of occurrences on each respective tour.

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**NOTE 3:** Timings which occur at Major Championships and official money World Golf Championships will be counted for the purposes of determining the cumulative number of timings during a season.

**NOTE 4:** Upon reaching the tenth occasion of being timed during a season, a player shall immediately be placed within the Category 3 groupings for Rounds 1 and 2 (when applicable) for the remainder of that season.

### **REPEAT OFFENSES**

Any player that receives a fine under this policy for any reason will be subject to double the existing fine structure the following season. For each consecutive season beyond one season in which the player is subject to fines under the policy, the fine amount will continue to double from the previous season. Note: Any player who receives a fine under this policy on the Korn Ferry Tour will not be subject to double the existing fine structure in their first year on the PGA TOUR.

In addition, a player who exceeds ten occasions of being timed in more than one season or who remains on the observation list and shows no improvement over the course of a season may be subject to sanction under the Conduct Unbecoming a Professional regulation, including but not limited to suspension and/or other measures designed to help the player improve his pace of play including mandatory education, changes in groupings category, additional fines or other requirements.

### **APPEALS**

Any appeal of a bad time or excessive shot time must be referred to the on-site Tournament Director immediately upon completion of the player in question's round. The Tournament Director's decision shall be final. **If the player in question does not appeal immediately upon conclusion of his round, any penalties and fines shall stand.**

For excessive shot times and observation list players, a provision has been added to account for "a valid reason for taking longer" on an individual shot. This is purposely broad in order to account for the wide range of situations a player can encounter on the course and will be interpreted in a fair way by the Rules Committee.

**Note: A player may not appeal an occasion of being out of position and timed. A player may not appeal being placed on the Observation List.**