

TIPS FOR READY GOLF AND FASTER PLAY THE MPSGA WAY

This list is provided by the USGA and Adapted to the MPSGA

Like other golf organizations in Michigan, the MPSGA struggles with the issue of pace-of-play. **Playing at a FASTER pace is not about hurrying up or rushing around the course.** It is simply about being more efficient with you and your group's time. **If you are ready to hit your ball and it is safe, then do it!** Adopting this mindset – and sharing it with your fellow players – will ultimately add enjoyment to your golf-tournament experience. Here are some recognized **Tips for Ready Golf and Faster** pace of play:

Start Smart. –Check in at least 15 minutes before the tournament starts **to avoid a 2-stroke penalty!** Then arrive at your assigned 1st tee **READY TO PLAY!** Remember essentials like extra balls, tees, gloves and appropriate clothing for the conditions

Minimize your time on the tee -- It is recommended that players “**hit when ready.**” You should also save time by **playing a provisional** if you think your original ball might be lost or out of bounds (**this applies to all shots, not just tee-shots**). Carry a **spare ball in your pocket** so that you do not have to go back to your bag when you need to hit a provisional.

Plan your shot before you get to your ball -- Once you are off the tee, **think ahead.** Determine your yardage and make your club selection before it is your turn to play. You can do this while others are playing without disruption. If you take your glove off between shots, have it back on before it is your turn to play. Small steps like this save time.

Keep your pre-shot routine short --Pick your line of play once and trust yourself. Try to take no more than one practice swing, then set up to the ball and play your shot. Most importantly, **be ready to hit when it is your turn.** And then start moving toward your next shot promptly.

Aim to play in 20 seconds-- From club selection to pre-shot routine to execution, strive to hit your shot in 20 seconds when it is your turn. Naturally, you may take additional practice swings while waiting on others—**you don't have to wait for your turn for practice to begin!**

Develop an eye for distance -- You don't have to step off yardage for every shot. If you need to determine precise distance, try to find a yardage marker before you reach your ball, then step off the yardage on the way to your ball. Or, consider investing in an electronic range-finder or global positioning system for golf and use it –this is allowed by Local Rule. If others in your group are not familiar with the course, then **exchange yardage information without penalty.**

When sharing a cart, use a buddy system -- Don't wait in the cart while your cart-mate hits and then drive to your ball; get out and walk to your ball with a few clubs. **Be ready to play when it is your turn** and then let your cart-mate pick you up. Or, drive to your ball after you drop your cart-mate off and then pick him up after you hit. If you are the passenger, take more than one club to your shot and proceed down the fairway after your shot. **Do not wait for the driver to pick you up – move forward.**

READY GOLF AND FASTER PLAY THE MPSGA WAY (cont'd)

Be helpful to others in your group -- Follow the flight of all tee shots, not just your own. Once in the fairway, **help others look for their ball if you already know the location of yours (and hit your ball first if practical)**. Volunteer to fill in a divot or rake a bunker for another player if needed. Be ready to attend the flagstick for others.

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 staying ahead of the group behind you. Strive to arrive at your next shot just before the group in front leaves the area in front of you. **If you fall 1 hole behind -- the group ahead of you is off the green before you start the hole -- then it is MANDATORY TO SPLIT YOUR GROUP UP; this allows you to close up your gap, which allows the rest of the FIELD to pick up the pace.**

Be efficient around and on the putting green -- **Park golf carts to the side or behind the green so that when you finish putting you will be moving away from the field of play and towards the next tee.** Mark your ball and lift and clean it when you arrive at the putting green so others won't be held up; replace it when it is your turn to play. **You can usually line up your putt while others are putting, without disturbing them.** Continue putting until your ball is holed when appropriate. Leave your clubs on the side of the putting green closest to your cart, and leave the green promptly after holing out. **Wait until the next tee to record your score.**

When disaster strikes, and it is clear you will score 9 or more, just pick your ball up and take a 9 --don't continue to hack the ball around -- the MPSGA allows this!.

Here are other good ideas:

- Be sociable, but minimize the chit chat and golf jokes/stories.
- Park your cart ready to leave the green; never leave the carts in the fairway/front of the green
- If your next shot is with your pitching wedge or sand wedge, automatically take your putter with you.
- Mark scorecards on the next tee box, not on or next to the putting green.
- If in the fairway waiting for players on the green in front of you, then a player who cannot reach the green should hit when ready. However, always play safe—do not hit into the group in front of you!

Did we mention to **Play Ready Golf** and **always keep up** with the group ahead of you?

And if you are more than a hole behind, **please split up your group into twosomes; trust us – it works!**