



Pace of Play Appeals

Pace of Play is very important and requires a team effort to enforce. However, on occasion a group will breach the Pace of Play Policy by exceeding the guidelines of the allotted time to complete nine holes (or a number designated by the Tournament Chairman) or by completing play of a checkpoint hole in excess of 15 minutes behind the group in front of them. This results in a breach of the Pace of Play Policy and the possibility of a Pace of Play Appeal.

Appeals

The Pace of Play Appeal is a mechanism in which a player in a group that has incurred a breach may ask the Tournament Chairmen to waive the penalty believing that he was not at fault for the breach. In other words, he believes it was somebody else's fault.

A group in breach of the pace of play policy may appeal the penalty only in scoring. Appeals for exceptional situations will be considered by the Tournament Chairman only in the scoring area; after the completion of the round and prior to the return of a player's scorecard. These appeals may result in one or more players not receiving a penalty.



The following are questions the Tournament Chairman will ask the players that are appealing a pace of play penalty:

- 1) Did anything occur on the course – outside of your control – that caused you to be late to the checkpoint? (Long rulings, long delays by group ahead, etc.)
- 2) When was the last time that your group had to wait on the group ahead and how long did you wait? (A VERY revealing question)
- 3) Since you last waited on the group ahead, what happened to cause your group to fall out of position
- 4) Did any one of you remind the others in the group of the need to catch up?
- 5) Was there any one player in the group or two of you who played significantly slower or faster than the others?
- 6) Do any of you want to speak to me individually?

Many times, players will refrain from speaking out about a slow player in the group while sitting next to them. Never be afraid to speak to a player individually, as they all have a lot of information on what went on during their round.

Florida State Golf Association Championship Operations



Committee Assistance

In order to determine the facts of the situation of the breach, the Tournament Chairman will ask for assistance from Committee members. Please record any information that may be of assistance should an appeal arise and make any pertinent notes.

The information required may include:



- Did you observe the group in question on the course and at what time relative to their time par and the group ahead was the flagstick replaced in the hole?
- Did you observe any player in the group seeming to make a concerted effort to “speed up” play in the group
- Did you observe any player in the group who may have taken longer than the others players to:
 - Prepare to play a shot; long routine or excessive number of practice swings
 - To make the stroke
 - Delay after the shot; repeated practice swings
- Was there any player in a group who delayed the group in other ways such as taking a long time between holes to record information or stats, taken a break between holes for refreshment or to use the restroom, taken more than five minutes to search for a ball, used a cell phone to make a call or send text messages, etc.

The Trap

At times, a special situation may arise that is commonly referred to as “the trap”. The trap occurs when a relatively slow group realizes they may be out of position near the checkpoint hole. The slow group does not want to be in breach and receive a penalty, so the group decidedly plays faster to avoid the breach. The following group has fallen into a slow pace behind this group. As the checkpoint approaches and as a result of the group ahead suddenly speeding up, the following group misses the checkpoint as the gap has widened between the groups ahead. This situation should be observed and pointed out to the Tournament Chairman to assist in the Pace of Play appeal.

Resolution

The Tournament Chairman will use all available information to determine if a breach of the Pace of Play Policy results in a penalty to all or any of the players in the group. At times, the reasons for the breach may be sufficient and any liable penalties will be waived. At other times, penalties will be assessed to just one, two, or possibly all players in the group.