



VSGA One-Day Events

Helpful Hints for Improving Pace of Play

- **Be ready to play when it is your turn to play.** Rule 6-7 in the USGA *Rules of Golf* states that players must “play without undue delay.” This includes using the time while other players are making their stroke to prepare for your stroke. You should figure out your yardage to the hole or read your putt prior to your turn to play.
- **Learn to play “ready golf.”** In stroke play, unless it is done to give an advantage, there is no penalty for playing out of turn at any point. What this means is even if you are closer to the hole than your fellow-competitor, you may play out of turn if you are ready to play before they are ready to play.
- **Play a provisional ball if you think that your original ball could be lost outside of a water hazard or out of bounds.** Many times, a provisional ball can keep you from having to ride back to the tee if you cannot find your original ball. Even though it takes time to play the provisional ball, it saves time in the long run.
- **Record your scores at the next teeing ground, not the previous putting green.** This practice not only improves pace of play for your group and the group behind, but is also much safer.
- **Drop your fellow-competitor off at his/her ball with sufficient clubs, then ride to your ball to play your shot.** This is another way to eliminate any “down time” and allows you to make use of the time that your fellow-competitors are playing their shots.
- **Shorten your pre-shot routine.** Many will agree that extra thought and tinkering with your swing will cause poor shots. With some exceptions, the best players aim and fire with less mechanical thoughts. Use the driving range to tinker with your swing, not the course.
- **If you have doubt on how to proceed from a Rules of Golf standpoint, play a second ball.** In stroke play, Rule 3-3 allows a competitor to play a second ball if they have doubt as to procedure. You should announce that you are playing a second ball, inform your fellow-competitors of the ball that you would like to count if the rules permit and play out the hole with both balls. Regardless of the outcome, report the situation to the Committee upon completion of the round.