

England Golf - Pace of Play Policy 2016

In 2016 England Golf shall be implementing a new Pace of Play policy in order to improve the pace of play in our Championships.

Definition of “Out of Position”

The first group and any group after a starter’s gap will be considered to be “out of position” if, at any time during the round, the group’s cumulative time exceeds the time allowed for the number of holes completed. Any following group will be considered “out of position” if it is more than the starting interval behind the group in front.

Procedure when Group is “Out of Position”

A Group “Out of Position” and more than their cumulative round time shall be asked by the referee to get back into position within a specified time. Failure to do so may lead to players being individually timed.

A Group “Out of Position” but within their cumulative round time shall either:

- (a) If their pace of play is not affecting following groups no action shall be taken.
- (b) If following groups are being ‘held up’ the group shall be asked to improve their pace of play.

If a decision is taken to time a group, each player in the group will be informed the group is out of position. At the referee’s discretion, each or any player will be subject to individual timings.

The maximum time allocated per shot is 40 seconds. 10 extra seconds are allowed for the first player to play.

- i. on a par three hole.
- ii. an approach shot; and
- iii. a chip or putt

The time will start when the player has had sufficient time to reach his ball, it is his turn to play and he is able to play without interference or distraction.

On the putting green, timing will start when the player has had a reasonable amount of time to lift, clean and replace his ball, repair pitch marks and move loose impediments on his line of putt. Time spent looking at the line from beyond the hole and / or behind the ball is included in the time allowed for the stroke.

Timing ceases when a group is back in position. Players will be advised accordingly.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF CONDITION

(Note 2 to Rule 6-7 and Note 4 to Rule 32-1b)

	Stroke Play	Match Play
1 Bad Time	One stroke penalty	Loss of hole
2 Bad Times	Further two strokes penalty	Loss of hole
3 Bad Times	Disqualification	Disqualification

“Random Timings Without Warning”

In addition to the above a player without notice may be individually timed (whether “In Position” or not). If their time exceeds 60 seconds the player will incur a warning. Any future bad times will result in penalties being imposed as highlighted above.