

## **MARGA PACE of PLAY**

MARGA encourages golfers to improve their pace of play on the course. The following guidelines will improve your pace without sacrificing your enjoyment of the game.

*All groups are encouraged to play 9 holes in 2 hours, 15 minutes, or less, and 18 holes in 4 hours, 30 minutes, or less.*

### **Ready Golf**

- > Agree on the first tee that whoever is ready to hit their shot says so and hits. Each player is ready to play when position, proper club selection, and practice swings are completed before it is time to hit your ball. This includes shots from the tee box, in or along the fairway, and on the green.
- > Only when two people are ready together should the one further from the hole hit first.
- > It should never take more than 60 seconds to hit a shot. Once struck, you should move immediately to your ball's new location, and prepare for your next shot.

### **Conversation**

Golfers should not get wrapped up in conversation. Chatter between friends on the course is a great part of the game, but you have to be able to talk, and pay attention to the flow of the game at the same time. Be ready to stop talking and play, when it is time. Leave cell phones in the car, or when carried, place ring tones to vibration mode.

### **On the Course**

All players must maintain their place in the field, which is immediately behind the group in front, and not just ahead of the group behind. All members of a group should be proactive in addressing the pace of play. You can play faster if you don't score well just by moving faster between shots.

### **On the Tee**

- > Prior to teeing off, make sure you have balls, tees, divot tool, ball mark, pencil and scorecard.
- > Take the cover off of the driver on the first hole, and leave it off for the rest of the round.
- > If necessary, mark your card after you tee off.
- > Short hitters tee off first, or whoever is ready.
- > After the last player hits his drive, the rest of the group should immediately start advancing to their balls. The last to drive can catch up.

## **On The Fairway**

- >Cart users should move ahead of walkers to look for balls in the rough.**
- >Short hitting cart players should be dropped off first, before proceeding to the other ball. First hitter should walk up to their next position.**
- >When on a cart, after hitting your shot, carry your club in the cart to your next shot, and then place it in your bag.**
- >Limit your pre-shot routine to no more than 15 seconds. If you take an extra 10 seconds on every shot, and you shoot, say 45 for 9, that is roughly an extra seven minutes, for just one player.**
- >Walking players should move quickly and directly to their ball and get ready to hit. Waiting for a friend to play their shot is not necessary. Players on opposite sides of the fairway may hit simultaneously.**
- >Know how far you hit your clubs. Often golfers wait behind a group, even though no one has the length to reach the group in front.**
- >Don't spend more than five minutes looking for a lost ball. You should help out another player by looking, especially if you are on the same side of the fairway. If more than one ball needs to be found, split up, and search for all the balls at the same time. If a gap opens up to the group in front of you, and there are players crowding from behind, then be reasonable, take the penalty and move on.**
- >Take a sand rake into the bunker with you, before playing the shot.**

## **On the Green**

- >Before putting, leave your bag or cart on the side of the green leading to the next tee, or behind the green. Do not leave anything in front of the green.**
- >Mark your ball and repair ball marks. Study your putt while others are putting.**
- >Do not wait for a player who is raking a greenside bunker, even though they may still be out,**
- >Once you start putting, continue until you have holed out, unless you will stand on someone else's line.**
- >Move to the next tee before counting your shots and marking your card.**
- >The first two players that hole out should collect any clubs and move them to the side of the green nearest the next tee. Both players should then proceed to the next tee and prepare to tee off. The third player to hole out will get the pin for the last player. To keep pace, the first two players can hit when they are ready.**