

2026 USGA AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIPS - QUALIFYING

Pace of Play Policy

STROKE PLAY

Players should play at a prompt pace throughout the round. Players are both allowed and encouraged to play “ready golf” in a safe and responsible way (Rule 6.4b) and should make a stroke in no more than 40 seconds (Rule 5.6b).

GENERAL

The Committee will designate four (4) holes on the course as pace of play checkpoint holes. When a group has been notified by a checkpoint official of a missed checkpoint (out of position), the group is expected to regain its position.

MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE TIME

Maximum allowable time is the **MAXIMUM** time considered necessary by the Committee for a group to complete its round. This is expressed in a per-hole and aggregate time format on the player scorecard.

OUT OF POSITION

A group is **out of position** when it:

- Takes more than the **maximum allowable time** to finish a checkpoint hole **and**
- Completes play of that checkpoint hole more than 14 minutes after the group in front of them.

A checkpoint hole is complete when the ball of the last player in the group to hole out has been removed from the hole.

The first group(s) of each wave is measured only against maximum allowable time until they are within 14 minutes of the group in front of them.

MONITORED & TIMED BY A RULES ROVER

- Any group that is **out of position** will be monitored by a Rules Rover who will individually time strokes made by a player(s).
- Regardless of position, if the Pace of Play Committee determines that a player(s) in the group is delaying play of their own group, following groups or the competition in general:
 - The player(s) may be spoken to and/or timed by a Rules Rover.
 - The penalty for breach of Rule 5.6a (Unreasonable Delay of Play) may be applied.
- Bad times (see below) and other information gathered at any time, including extensive rulings, will be considered during the review.
- Any player(s) concerned about another player(s) in the group should request a Rules Rover to monitor the group.

TIMING / BAD TIMES

- If a group misses a checkpoint, bad times will be considered when determining penalties.
- Each player is permitted a maximum of 40 seconds to make a stroke. A player is considered to have made a bad time only when the player exceeds 40 seconds, plus an additional 10 percent timing margin.
- The timing of a player's stroke begins when it is the player's turn to play without interference or distraction. Time spent determining yardage and other conditions, such as wind, will count as time taken for the stroke.
- **On the putting green**, the actions allowed under Rule 13.1 are not included in the timing of a player's stroke, provided the player is not unreasonably delaying play. However, time spent surveying the line of play from any angle will count as time taken for the stroke.
- A player may inquire about their bad times at any point during the round.

MISSED CHECKPOINTS (PENALTIES)

The following penalty structure applies for players in a group that have missed one or more checkpoints:

- 1 missed checkpoint – **warning**
- 2 missed checkpoints – **one penalty stroke**
- 3 missed checkpoints – **additional two penalty strokes**
- 4 missed checkpoints – **disqualification**

If a group misses multiple checkpoints but finishes the round under their maximum allowable time, the group is still liable to penalty.

Any penalty strokes that are to be applied to a player(s) score are applied on the checkpoint hole(s) where they became liable to penalty.

REVIEW PROCESS

Pace of Play reviews will not take place during the round. Once in the scoring area and before returning scorecards, players will have the opportunity to share any relevant information with the Committee prior to having a final determination made on whether a penalty(s) will be assessed. If assessed, penalties are considered final.