

A solution to slow play does exist

You may have read Vern Putney's comments and proposed solutions regarding slow play in the May issue. Since reading Vern's thoughts I have had discussions with fellow golfers and golf industry acquaintances who have offered their own thoughts on the subject.

On the course, I am paying more attention to my group's play and, naturally, to the play of other groups — especially to that group ahead. I have had two unfortunate situations involving slow play that could (and should) be avoided.

One situation at a semi-private course in a small Midwestern town was interesting. Playing a twosome with my brother-in-law, we were waved through by three foursomes in the first six holes. Keeping in mind that foursomes have the right-of-way, we did not press or give any indication that we'd like to get through but we were allowed through until we came to the 15th hole where a fivesome was playing (walking).

After waiting 20 minutes to hit our second shots, my brother-in-law suggested we "go over them."

We didn't, but it did take 1:45 to play the last four holes.

The other situation on a public course, again in the Midwest, began on the first hole (a par 3) where it took the threesome ahead of us some 20 minutes to play the hole. Finally, after playing four holes in an hour, we asked to go through. They did let us through, reluctantly, and commented on our lack of golf etiquette.

Once past this group and a foursome two holes ahead, we found a wide-open golf course!

My point here is that there is a

solution to this problem. If there is a ranger on the course speeding up play or directing traffic, everyone wins, particularly the golf course. Speedy play means more rounds and more cash flow. A ranger will add an expense, but why can't a groundskeeper act as a ranger while waiting to mow?

This issue features a special product update on herbicide producers. You'll find specific information on pages 16-17.

Sincerely,
Charles E. von Brecht
Publisher

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