



# Pace of Play

By **Jeremiah Hoffmann**, Golf Professional, Rolling Meadows Golf Course

As the weather continues to improve (although as I write this it is 40 degrees and raining!) and we enter the outing and event season, it's a good time to think about course set up and pace of play. Golf Professionals and Superintendents can work together to improve pace of play through course set up.

Efforts can be made in a more permanent manner as well as individual event set ups. A big concern in today's "instant" society is pace of play. People do not want to be on the golf course for 5 hours, they just don't have that much time. The quicker they get

around your facility, the more likely they are to return.

Sit down with your golf professional and discuss what you both see as potential bottle necks or areas of concern. Discuss changes to mowing and course marking practices that may make it easier for your players. For bigger events, try to choose easier pins and play the golf course a little shorter. Here is a simple list of items to discuss and keep in mind concerning pace of play.

First, a couple things to remember about your customers in regards to pace of play:

- Everyone thinks they play fast
- It's always the group ahead of them that is causing all the problems
- They all believe they are better players than they are
- They all think they can hit the ball a lot further than they can

As for your golf course, a few things to discuss:

- If you have gorse areas, are they coming into play too much
- Are the pins too difficult on a day-to-day basis
- Are the greens too fast for their undulation
- For larger events, consider playing par 5s a little longer. This makes fewer people wait to try and knock it on in 2
- For some events move the tee markers forward to shorten the course
- Set up your hardest holes as easy as they can be
- Keep water coolers, beverage carts and port-a-pot-ties away from potential slow down areas

Hopefully you have a successful outing season and all your rounds will be played in four hours or less! 🌱

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