



## NMAA Golf Events *Spectator Policy*

Spectators are welcome at all NMAA golf events. Spectators may not give advice or talk to players at any time while on the course including between nines. Spectators shall stay at least 30 yards away from players they are following without interfering with any group advancing from behind. Spectators must remain on cart paths or in the rough **except when** helping in the search for a lost golf ball. **Penalty for violation:** At committee's discretion, the player(s) will be assessed a **2-stroke penalty**.

When the players are putting, if you are not able to see the putting surface from the cart path, you may move to a mounded area off the cart path to where you can see the players putting. We do ask that you do not make contact with or distract the players; Contact could be seen as advice under the USGA Rules of Golf, Rule 8.

Parents, and interested spectators should be reminded that they are spectators, and it is not their responsibility to report possible rule violations. Rule violations should be reported by the players or tournament officials.

Spectators using golf carts must remain on cart paths and should make sure they are stopped while players are hitting. Riding on the back of a spectator or coaches' cart will be grounds for immediate removal from the golf course. Only two people per cart. This is a safety concern and will not be tolerated.

Cell phones must be kept on **SILENT** on the golf course and can **NOT** be used to make phone calls, however, use of cell phones to take pictures is permitted as long as it is not a distraction to the golfers or holds up the pace of play. ALL phone conversations **MUST** be made at the clubhouse. Violators of this policy will be asked to leave the course.

Spectators should always observe proper golf etiquette as well as acknowledge the good play of all competitors!!

## ACE OF PLAY GUIDELINES

The Rules Committee will handle the administration of pace of play.

The Player shall play without undue delay. Between completion of a hole and playing from the next teeing ground, a player shall not delay play.

1. All groups will be expected to play at a reasonably fast pace. A group of four players will be expected to play at a pace of 15 minutes per hole or 4  $\frac{1}{2}$  hours per eighteen hole round.
2. Each group must maintain their starting interval. Any group falling a hole (par 4 or par 5) will be out of position. You are deemed to be out of position when your group is on the tee and the hole is clear. If you are out of position, you will be notified that your group is out of position. At this time, the entire group will be **officially** timed. The first starting time will be out of position if they are five minutes off the official pace.
3. The timing of a player's stroke will begin when a player has reached his ball, and it is clearly his turn to play without interference. On the putting green, the timing will begin after the player has been allowed a reasonable time to reach his ball, lift, clean and replace his ball, repair his ball mark and other ball marks on the line of putt.
4. A player will be allowed a MAXIMUM of 40 SECONDS to complete his stroke. EXCEPTION: An additional 10 SECONDS will be allowed for the player who is first to play on or near the putting green and the first to play from the teeing ground on par three holes. **The timing procedure will also include time spent pacing off yardage, changing/selecting clubs, pre-shot routine, determining wind direction, etc.**
5. If a player exceeds the time limit ONE time, they will receive a caution. A SECOND violation of the time limit, they will be assessed a one-stroke penalty. A THIRD violation of the time limit, they will be assessed a two-stroke penalty. A FOURTH violation will result in disqualification.

NOTE: Timing will discontinue when the group has regained its position. You are expected to maintain your position at all times.

Best of luck and be ready to play.

The Rules Committee